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The Glamorgan GEM



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Established 1983

Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/11 - 42,235
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ggem@tindlenews.co.uk

THURSDAY, MARCH 15TH, 2012

Leekes launches NEW discount card

*Shoppers' delight at superb savings plus fantastic free finance**

It's great news for all home improvers in South Wales this week as local retailer Leekes unveiled plans to introduce their strongest ever finance offer, plus a fantastic new discount card with savings of up to 20% off 'finishing touches'.

The family-owned department store, known locally as the home experts, already offer fantastic savings on a huge range of furniture, kitchens, bathrooms and more. But, for a limited time only, there's nothing to pay until 2013, followed by up to a further two years of interest free credit*.

And that's not all. Leekes are also keen to reward customers with a fantastic new 'finishing touches' discount card that delivers savings of up to 20% off related purchases.

Emma Leeke sums up their approach: "At Leekes we don't just sell furniture, kitchens, bathrooms and conservatories - but also the paints, tiles, saucepans, towels, lights and accessories to complete the look; and this is the case for every room in the home."

"By offering our new complimentary 'finishing touches' discount card, complete with a FREE design consultation from our experienced interiors specialists, we hope to turn even more home improvement dreams into a reality in 2012."

Right now there are fantastic new additions across your local Leekes store, including the latest trends for spring. Plus, affordable finance and the 'finishing touches' discount card are available until 28th March, subject to conditions and a minimum spend of £1000. Ask in store for details.



The new 'finishing touches' discount card is available with furniture, kitchens, bathrooms and conservatories and includes a FREE interior design consultation.



BUY NOW PAY 2013
PLUS up to 2 years Interest Free Credit*



[LEEKES KITCHENS]

All things bright and beautiful

From gorgeous gloss to country charm, the extensive kitchen collection at Leekes has the essential ingredients to suit every taste and every pocket, with unmissable offers for a limited time only.

Leekes also have this season's hottest picks to complete your kitchen look! In bold shades of zesty yellow, hot pink and a co-ordinating stripe, the latest mix & match range from Kenwood will certainly add the perfect finishing touch to your new Leekes kitchen. Order now to spread the cost with free finance and enjoy up to 20% off 'finishing touches' including tiles, paint, lighting, accessories and more.



[UTENSILS]



[SAUCEPANS]



[CUTLERY]



[KITCHENS | fact file]

Order your new kitchen this spring and the designers at Leekes will not only steer you through the wealth of worktop, appliance and cabinet choices - but can also provide a complete design, planning, installation and project management service.

- Over 40 kitchens on display from leading designers including Rotpunkt, Sheraton, Casa, Cusina and Charles Rennie Mackintosh
- Choose from hundreds of styles and colours in classic and contemporary finishes
- Integrated appliances from trusted brands including Hotpoint, Neff, Caple, Stoves and Baumatic
- Durable yet stylish worktops in granite, silestone, wood, glass, mala and corian
- Installation by qualified and professional craftsmen if required

- **CASA Boston Black**
Sleek, modern cabinets in a black high gloss finish



[COUNTERTOP APPLIANCES]

BUY NOW PAY 2013
PLUS up to 2 years Interest Free Credit*



ABOVE: The Time Team come to Kenfig. (SEE PAGE 4).

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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The area's longest serving Community Newspaper

Established 1983

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www.bridgend-today.co.uk www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

THURSDAY, MARCH 15TH, 2012

Old library HQ is sold to housing association

THE former Coed Parc library HQ at Parc Street, Bridgend, has been sold to Wales and West Housing Association by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

The site includes a Grade II listed main house which has previously been used for office accommodation, and a large timber extension which formerly housed the reference and information library.

It became surplus to the council's requirements following the relocation of the library headquarters to Raven's Court in Bridgend town centre and the transfer of the reference and information library to Ty'r Ardd, Sunnyside.

The main house at Coed Parc is

protected by a development framework which sets out sensitive design principles that will enable it to be restored and repaired while respecting the character and setting of the building.

Anne Hinchey, chief executive of WWHA, said: "We were pleased to be able to acquire Coed Parc in such challenging times for a new residential development to meet the needs of the local community.

"This initiative is another example of the robust and very productive partnership we have with BCBC."

Coun Huw David, BCBC cabinet member for resources, stated: "I am extremely happy that this historic old building has passed on to an organisation such as Wales and West Housing Association."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

PUPILS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



ABOVE: Esther Foster of ESDGC Bridgend presents the Fairtrade flag to headteacher Mrs Hurry, Miss Jones and the school council.

COYCHURCH SCHOOL HOISTS THE FAIRTRADE FLAG ALOFT!

FAIRTRADE fortnight began at Coychurch Llangrallgo Primary School in grand style, as they held a special assembly to celebrate achieving Fairtrade status.

At the assembly, Miss Jones and the pupils discussed how Fairtrade helps families and communities in developing countries around the world.

The headteacher, Mrs Hurry, explained just how much work the pupils from all year groups had done, with the help of staff and parents, to provide evidence towards achieving their goals.

Esther Foster, from ESDGC Bridgend, congratulated the pupils and staff and presented the Fairtrade flag to the members of the school's steering group.

By achieving Fairtrade status, they

have become one of 17 schools in Bridgend who are making a difference to the lives of other children around the world.

Their good work will not stop there; the pupils at Coychurch will continue to promote Fairtrade in as many ways as they can in the school and in their community.

SH

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18th

March

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Man jailed after bus passenger is robbed

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A PASSENGER on a bus was "petrified" when he was attacked for no reason.

At Cardiff Crown Court, the man responsible for the incident, 27-year-old Michael Blake, was jailed for a total of two years, four months.

Blake, of no fixed address, admitted charges of robbery, breach of a restraining order, possessing cannabis, and theft.

Prosecutor David Thomas said that last December, Blake had had a relationship with Sarah James, but he had been convicted of assaulting her and he was subject to a restraining order not to contact her at her Pontycymmer home.

But he went there drunk and was told to

leave. At one point, he went into her handbag and removed cash and her mobile phone.

Ms James called the police and Blake left and caught a bus at 7.50pm.

On the bus, was a youth worker, Robert Gilett. Mr Thomas said he himself had described himself as very overweight.

"Suddenly, he felt a blow from behind at the back of his head, and saw that it had been delivered by Blake, who subjected him to a tirade of abuse concerning his size.

"Mr Gilett, who was also called a grass, was petrified."

Blake whispered to him: "Have you got any money," and was given £3.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)



POINT TO POINT STEEPLECHASES ON

Saturday 24th March 2012

Ystradowen - Nr. Cowbridge

First race 2pm

Bring the family to the countryside to see six three mile steeplechases with superb viewing of the racecourse and Vale.

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For further details telephone The Secretary, Peter Thomas on 01446 774310 or 07855 366 902

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Saint's Day celebration marks Llys Ton's opening at Kenfig Hill

A SPECIAL St David's Day celebration has been held to mark the official opening of the new £5m Llys Ton Extra Care facility in Kenfig Hill.

The purpose-built complex has been developed by Bridgend County Borough Council with Valleys to Coast Housing to offer 39 high-quality one and two-bed apartments for up to 70 tenants.

Funded by the council, V2C and a Welsh Government social housing grant, Llys Ton is aimed at people aged 50 and over who wish to live independently within a community environment but also have a need for on-site support or assistance.

Care "is flexible as tenants' needs change, but always with a strong emphasis on choice and independence," a



Coun Lyn Morgan, BCBC cabinet member for wellbeing with new tenant Heather Barker in Llys Ton's new garden area.

spokeswoman said. For the first time in the county borough, couples who wish to remain living together once one partner's care or health needs have changed can do so.

The first tenants arrived in January, but now the scheme is fully operational a special piece of Welsh slate artwork in the form of a sleeping dragon has been unveiled to celebrate the official opening.

ing. Coun Lyn Morgan, the council's cabinet member for wellbeing and older person's champion, said: "It's fitting that we have chosen such a special date to officially open Bridgend County Borough's very first extra care scheme, as this has been such a significant project for us as a council."

"The journey to today extends much further back than the actual building of Llys Ton. It began with our vision to deliver a new kind of accommodation for our older people."

"We are proud to have delivered our first extra care scheme which offers a local, innovative and alternative option

for living independently into old age."

Among the special guests invited to help perform the opening ceremony was gold medal-winning Paralympian Simon Richardson.

He said: "This place gives you the feeling that you want to be here, not that you need to be here. It gives people the quality of life they deserve. I would like to say a big well done to V2C and Bridgend County Borough Council and everyone who has been involved in this project."

"I hope this foot print will be a starting block for more extra care projects in the county."

Mike Brough, chair of the V2C board of management, paid tribute to all those involved in the project.

He added: "Thank you for coming to celebrate the opening of this amazing facility."

"I'd also like to thank BCBC, the cabinet and in particular Coun Lyn Morgan, for the tough decision they took in order to allow this scheme to happen."

Downing Street 'Welsh outpost' for national day!

WELSH sporting and TV stars were among guests invited to 10 Downing Street for a St David's Day luncheon.

The event, hosted by David Cameron, was a celebration of all things Welsh with leek and lamb d'oeuvres served to guests, and a school choir singing traditional Welsh songs.

The Prime Minister toasted the success of TV programmes such as *Gavin & Stacey* as well as sporting successes; commiserated with Wales on the World Cup defeat to France and congratulated the team on the recent Triple Crown win.

He told guests that Downing Street had become a "Welsh outpost" for the evening after a faulty flagpole meant the Union flag was taken down in favour of the Red Dragon.

He went on to say that

Wales is currently enjoying a "tremendous renaissance in terms of culture, in terms of sport, in terms of cuisine, in terms of the arts", adding that his recent visit to Broughton to open the new Airbus factory was one of the most exciting businesses he had seen in the past two years.

Guests included Sam Warburton and Warren Gatland, Steve Jones of American X Factor fame and Joanna Page from the award winning series *Gavin & Stacey*.

In honour of her contributions to community regeneration, Bridgend-based social entrepreneur Dawn Davies of Creation Development Trust was also specially invited to the event, with two volunteers from the community group 'Knitting Nannas', who are part of the nationally recognised Timecentre project, based at Blaengarw Workmens Hall.

Did you know you can read your GEM online? bridgend-today.co.uk

How Arab Spring has highlighted the plight of women workers

THIS time last year, I wrote about the centenary of International Women's Day and mentioned the role women had played in the Arab Spring.

From protesting to supporting rebel forces, women made a very significant contribution to the revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen.

At that time, the Arab Spring was in full swing.

On International Women's Day, March 8, there was a large scale protest in Yemen and on the days either side, the international community were preparing to implement a no-fly zone over Libya and in Tunisia, the former President's party was dissolved leading to mass celebrations.

Men and women protested and in many cases fought side by side, as one Egyptian woman noted: "All of us were there, throwing stones, moving dead bodies. We did everything. There was no difference between men and women."

A year on, many of these revolutions still have a long way to run. Building a democracy is a slow process.

Conducting free elections is one thing, but changing attitudes is quite another.

Tragically for the people of Syria, even peace seems a very long way off. Nevertheless, International Women's Day offers a chance to take stock, measure progress and act as a reminder that much remains to be done.

In many of the Arab Spring countries, the former regimes sought to champion women's rights, including access to education and the labour market as a way of seeking legitimacy.

This has complicated the position of women and in some places, most notably Egypt, has tainted the cause of women's liberation.

There is a danger that momentum could be lost unless we remain vigilant and support women in these countries so that gains made are secured.

Only eight women won seats during the elections for Egypt's lower house, which equates to less than two per cent. This is extremely low compared to the numbers of women in parliament following the 2010 elections, as there were then 64 reserved seats for women.

Nevertheless, the reverberations of this

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive report from Westminster for The GEM.



will be felt for years.

The Arab Spring has encouraged women in Saudi Arabia to push for even the most modest of freedoms – the right to drive.

The first Arab woman to be awarded a Nobel Peace Prize received her prize in 2011. Tawakul Kaman received the award for her contribution to the protest movement in Yemen.

Away from the Arab Spring, International Women's Day remains as relevant as ever. The Independent recently documented the best and worst places to be a woman in 2012.

Among the predictable results of the Scandinavian countries being the best place to be a mother (Norway) and best place to be a woman (Iceland), there were a few surprises which the UK could learn from. The best place to be a woman politician? Rwanda. Yes, Rwanda. Rwanda is the only nation on the planet in which women hold the majority of seats.

The UK ranks in 45th place, behind Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates. The best place for labour force participation? Burundi. Yes, you read correctly, Burundi. Female labour force participation is 92 per cent. The UK is ranked 47th.

While our economic and social problems pale in comparison with many other countries, the last year has seen a depressing tide of developments which impact negatively on women.

Female unemployment is at its highest for a generation. The number of women with children in work is lower than most other developed countries.

The likelihood of this situation improving dramatically any time soon is slim. Job cuts in the public sector have hit women particularly hard, as two-thirds of jobs in the public sector are held by women.

Employment in the retail sector is also dominated by women. With the downturn on the high street, many are finding themselves surplus to requirements.

Changes to tax credits that are due to be imple-

mented on April 1 will hit many part-time workers hard, a substantial proportion of whom are women.

Currently, someone becomes eligible for working tax credits when they work 16 hours a week.

From April, this increases to 24 hours a week. This relies on the premise that employers can offer their employees more hours, which,

given the gloomy economic outlook, is unlikely. It is estimated that the average family receiving working tax credits will lose £74 a week.

The lack of women on the boards of FTSE 100 companies remains embarrassingly low. 18 such companies have no women on their boards and it has been estimated that it will take another 40 years before women achieve equality in this field.

In terms of political representation, there is a long way to go too. Only five of the current 23-strong Cabinet are female, while 22 per cent of MPs are female.

The balance sheet for the last year is mixed. The verdict?

Don't give up.

Maesteg Rotary Club hands over donation



THE Rotary Club of Maesteg recently made a donation to Llangynwyd community association, who are raising funds to purchase St Stephens Church on Llangynwyd Square, so that the village can have its own community hall.

Various fundraising activities are

ongoing and anybody who would like to make a donation can do so at Llangynwyd Post Office or via any committee member.

The picture shows Mrs Mari Jones, chairman of the community association receiving the cheque from Rotary president Mr Talfyn Harries.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL MARCH 22)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

| DATE | Time AM | Ht M | Time PM | Ht M |
|---------|---------|------|---------|------|
| 15 Thur | 11.24 | 8.2 | 23.57 | 8.1 |
| 16 Fri | | | 12.45 | 7.7 |
| 17 Sat | 01.36 | 7.8 | 14.19 | 7.6 |
| 18 Sun | 02.55 | 7.9 | 15.41 | 8.0 |
| 19 Mon | 03.59 | 8.1 | 16.35 | 8.4 |
| 20 Tues | 04.49 | 8.9 | 17.21 | 8.9 |
| 21 Wed | 05.39 | 9.4 | 18.01 | 9.3 |
| 22 Thur | 06.15 | 9.6 | 18.33 | 9.6 |

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Rural grants are on offer

TODAY (March 15), reach are holding a 'drop-in' session at Cornelly Community Centre from 12.30pm to 2.30pm to hear about your community ideas and offer advice and support to help get projects off the ground.

"Our grants can fund small scale capital projects that conserve, upgrade, restore and enhance

keynote buildings and landmarks in rural Bridgend. The grants can also fund enhanced gateway features to rural communities, land clearance and improvements to sites of natural heritage," said spokesman Christopher Priestley.

Contact 01656 815080 or visit reach's website – www.bridgendreach.org.uk - for further information.

Latest results from Bridgend Bridge Club

RECENT results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows: Wednesday March 7, first round of Webber Cup qualifying event for teams.

First: John Cox, Roger Penton, Tony Disley and Mike Close; second, Mel Humphries, Glyn Williams, John Henson and Geoff Tinkler; third, Mary Moore, Di Jones, Tony Hawprth and Robert Charlesworth.

Friday March 9: Max Powell Rose Bowl Pairs, First, John Beard and Deb Davies; second Marjorie Morris and Linda Pincock; third,

John and Christine Evans.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm in Noltan Church Hall, there are lessons for beginners on Fridays at 7.30pm with Graham Jones, and for improvers on Wednesdays at 2.30pm, with John Beard.

To register interest please contact John Beard on 01446 71445, Graham Jones on 01446 775952, Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

DN



Included in the picture are: Carol Smith (Communities First Development Worker), Jennifer Lewis (Morphious), Sharon Rouse (Morphious), Coun David Sage (Deputy Leader BCBC), Jenna Bromley (community member/client), Pam Morgan (Bridges into Work), Anna Crole (Want 2 Work) and Allison Pesticcio (Communities First).

THE WEDNESDAY WORK CLUB NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS AT BRACKLA

A 'WEDNESDAY Work Club' which aims to help Brackla residents return to employment or prepare for a new job, was officially launched recently by Coun David Sage.

Brainchild of Brackla Communities First, the free service at Brackla Community Centre gives residents whatever help they need to get them back in the world of work or boost confidence for a new role.

On Wednesday mornings from

9.30am-11.30am the sessions will involve several agencies, including Bridges Into Work, Morphious, Want 2 Work, Careers Wales and Jobcentre Plus.

Coun Sage said: "As Deputy Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, I have a special responsibility for the area of regeneration and economic development, so helping residents to be better equipped for the world of work is something close to my heart."

"I'm especially pleased that this initiative will benefit the con-

stituents I serve."

Brackla Communities First coordinator Allison Pesticcio added: "The beauty of having them all together in one place is that people can be immediately sign posted to another relevant agency."

"We have arranged the surgery to be very informal and are providing tea, coffee and biscuits. Children are also very welcome, so please come along on Wednesday mornings and find out how we can help you."

Brackla Communities First can be contacted on 01656 815120.

The Bridgend Lions' book fair a success



Bridgend Lions Club president, Terry Harris, presenting the cheque for £1,000 to Lisa Gilchrist, YMCA Bridgend manager.

The Bridgend Lions recently held their annual charity book fair at the YMCA Bridgend, which raised more funds to enable them to continue to help local charities.

Club volunteers spent the winter months collecting, sorting and pricing the huge quantity of books generously donated by the community.

Hundreds of people then came from far and wide over the three days the fair was held.

The invaluable help given by staff and vol-

unteers at the YMCA Bridgend made the fair a success, and knowing that the YMCA needed funds to develop their new community cafe and IT centre, Bridgend Lions were delighted to reciprocate with a donation of £1,000 towards equipment for the new facility.

In the coming months Bridgend Lions hope to be able to report on further donations to local causes.

Their website, bridgendlions.org.uk, and Facebook pages both have up to date news of their activities.

Kenfig Hill farmer's wife awarded MBE



Joan Lean in the gardens of Buckingham Palace, after receiving her award.

A LOCAL farmer's wife was recently presented with the MBE for her services to government.

Mrs Joan Lean received the MBE in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours and she was presented with her award by Prince Charles in Buckingham Palace on January 26.

Mrs Lean received the award for services to the Welsh Government, after working there for 40 years, and finishing her career as deputy head of the facilities management team in Cathays Park.

Joan who hails from Tonyrefail, said that the atmosphere was incredi-

ble at the Palace and what made it even more special was having her family there to share the occasion with her.

Looking on proudly was, her husband of 37 years, Kenfig Hill farmer, Dave Lean, her sister Margaret Howells and niece Elizabeth Moynan, both from Tonyrefail.

Since retiring, Mrs Lean has been able to spend more time with her family and also with her first love, horses, and now devotes some of her time to helping at the disabled children's riding club, which is based at the Agriculture College in Pencoed.

Jail for Brackla man over drugs offences

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A BRACKLA man has been jailed for 20 months at Cardiff Crown Court for a series of drugs offences.

Richard Williams (33), formerly of Heol Cae Mawr, admitted possessing amphetamine prepared for injection with intent to supply, possessing amphetamine, being concerned in the supply of the drug and failing to surrender to his bail.

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that last July, the police searched his property in Brackla and found Williams with two others.

The officers found four syringes containing amphetamine prepared to be injected, and electronic scales.

Williams also had a bag containing amphetamine and discovered text messages on his mobile phone indicating he had sup-

plied drugs to close friends. He was said to have previous convictions for wounding, supplying ecstasy, possessing drugs, and attempted possession with intent to supply.

Alex Greenwood, representing him, said that he was currently homeless. "To his credit, he has overcome a heroin addiction and is struggling to stop his amphetamine addiction."

Mr Justice Haddon-Cave said that a mandatory term of seven years could have been imposed because of Williams' previous drug convictions.

But, he said, the quantity in the present case was very small, Williams had supplied only friends and he was a low-level dealer.

"Count yourself fortunate."

The Judge said he hoped Williams could deal with his drugs problem and added: "Get a life."

Members go on a journey!

LLANHARRY WI NEWS

SPEAKERS for March were Mike and Barbara Sullivan, who had put together an excellent power-point programme of places they had visited in the UK.

Accompanied by appropriate music throughout, the presentation started with a look at well-known birds found in our gardens.

We were then taken on a journey, starting with the Christmas lights at Cardiff and then on to the Scilly Isles, Brecon Mountain Railway, ending with the Botanic Gardens at Carmarthen.

During social time,

Mike and Barbara judged the competition, which was an item beginning with 'G'. Entries ranged from gloves, glasses, grater, gin, miniature garden and many more. The grater belonging to president, Jill Rosser was chosen.

The business meeting followed and plans were made for the summer trip in August to Stratford-upon-Avon.

An album of old photographs was on display of past events and activities taken by Janet Lewis, which attracted much interest and laughter.

Next month, the topic is 'most peculiar people'.

JR

Daffodil wood

COED-Y-BWL nature reserve, Tondy, will hold an open day at 2pm, Sunday March 18.

This stunning wild daffodil wood is managed by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales' local Bridgend group.

The day will see the unveiling of the reserve's new interpretation board by Murray McLaggan of Merthyr

Mawr Estate.

With the aid of a £5,000 Lottery Awards For All grant, Trust volunteers have tapped into their own skills to build the interpretation board from local limestone.

Due to restricted car parking, visitors are invited to join a Land Rover shuttle - starting at 1.30pm - from the Fox and Hounds car park at St Brides Major.

Mama Fluff is so lonely...



"MY name is Mama Fluff and I am a 13-year-old lady looking for my happy ever after home..."

"I came into the Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre with my two friends who have both found new homes, and I am lonely here on my own. I have a lot of love to give and I love lots of attention!"

"If you have a nice warm lap I can curl up and sleep on, then I am your girl! Hope to see you soon. Love and purrs."

To find out more about Mama Fluff, ring 01656 726621 or email bridgend@cats.org.uk

Cats Protection, Bridgend Adoption Centre is at Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9UJ

A LOCAL BOY COMES HOME

ONE of the top acts 'Down Under' at the Adelaide Fringe 2012 featured a young man from Porthcawl.

Rhys Jones attended St John's School and St Clare's School, then went on to read physics at St John's College, Oxford.

After three years of sell-out shows at the Edinburgh Fringe, he and his friend Rob decided to quit their teaching jobs and try to earn a living with their magic show called 'Morgan and West, Time Travelling Magicians'.

They were encouraged in this by baffling top American magicians Penn and Teller and winning a trip to Las Vegas where they performed in

the Penn and Teller show.

Rhys and Rob currently live in Oxford where they recently featured in the local press. Both have had some years of experience in amateur theatre and even wrote their own musical.

The young men (aged 24 and 25) are bringing their show to Harri's Café Bar@The Dance Centre, Elm Crescent, Bryntirion, on Friday, April 20. The website morganandwest.co.uk will give a full flavour of their talents.

Any profits from their show will be donated to 'Cancer Research Wales' and a small number of tickets for this intimate venue (cost £7) are available from Harri's Café Bar or from Allan Jones 01639 888053.

Life as a media gardener talk

THE March meeting of Sker WI was held at St David's Church Hall, Nottage, when president Nina Charlesworth welcomed members and read out a list of forthcoming events.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Terry Walton, who gave a very interesting and amusing talk on 'Life as a media gardener'.

He has been interested in gardening since an early age and had his first allotment at 11 years old.

Since then he has become a regular on the Jeremy Vine radio show, which often has 6.5 million listeners. Mr Walton has also been involved with the Coal House series, the Chelsea Flower Show and Gardeners' Question Time.

When not on the radio, he is kept busy with his allotment, which is quite large, and provides his family with all the vegetables they need for the year.

The next meeting is

on April 12 when the speaker will be Mr Mike Wilcock on 'Life in the fashion business'.

Ann Vipond

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WILL THE TIME TEAM REVEAL THE HIDDEN SECRETS OF KENFIG DUNES?

FASCINATING facts about the lost town of Kenfig are due to be revealed when a *Time Team* investigation is broadcast on Sunday (March 18).

There are many stories, some a little outlandish, about the town that was swallowed up when the sand dunes advanced, probably in the 15th Century.

However, last August the Channel 4 *Time Team* excavated the town that existed in the middle ages inside and outside the bank and ditch defence earthwork that once surrounded the Norman Castle at Kenfig Dunes.

The ancient town was built and subsequently overrun several times, including being burnt to the ground, and these details are expected to be revealed in typical *Time Team* fashion.

Geophysical ground mapping (which in this case was extremely easy, due to the sand over-mantle) enabled the team to produce a theoretical physical map of the area.

Tantalising finds were made, including silver half pennies, and a many pottery fragments.

These will be revealed on the programme, on Sunday.

As usual, the inimitable Tony Robinson will be on hand to explain from the layman's viewpoint, what has been discovered and how significant it is to the area – and how it helps our understanding of the Middle-Ages in Wales.

During the excavation, several facts were revealed about living in the town, including some laws. For example, butchers were not allowed to throw sheep heads into the street on a Sunday, and 'binge drinking' was banned within the town walls!

The town population at its height would have been around 800. As a point of reference, at the same time, Cardiff's population was about 1,800, which seems to indicate a very important and thriving community.



REPORT and PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT



ABOVE: Tony Robinson and Francis Pryor are filmed discussing the findings.

LEFT:

The *Time Team* group were based upstairs in the Prince of Wales pub, where a special beer had been brewed for the occasion. It was called 'Time Team Tipple'.



ABOVE: Geophysical ground mapping taking place.



LEFT: Examining the data.



ABOVE: The dig revealed a culvert in the old village.

LEFT: Phil Harding from the *Time Team*.



Work starts on the dig.



Bridgend quiz league round-up

IN games played on Monday, March 5, in the first division, there were comfortable wins in three.

Mackworth Arms had a thumping win at Cabo Roche by 50-26. Llangewydd Arms had 153 points against Laleston Inn A's 32, and Tyrisha Royals had a 45-36 victory versus Six Bells.

In the other division one game, Tyrisha Nomads had a close one away to Crown Inn A (44-40). They were

level from the start until the middle of the individual round, when Nomads got a bonus point which went to three-up and, in the final three they got another bonus, and then both teams failed on the last question – on rugby.

In division two, Greenmeadow ran up a worthy 53 points, which bettered Laleston Inn B's 46, while the other three games were extremely close.

Tondu Railway Club were given a scare by

Pheasant Gamekeepers but just got home by 52-50, Pheasant Poachers squeezed to a 44-43 win against Oldcastle B and Coychurch Wanderers had a 47-all draw with Crown Inn B.

Here are your special four:

1. Which flightless bird unusually has nostrils at the tip of its bill rather than the base, and also lays a larger egg relative to its body size than any other bird?
2. Sir George Carew

was the commander of which ill-fated warship that sunk in 1545?

3. Which of the many 'Great White Hopes' finally beat world heavyweight champion Jack Johnson in 1915?

4. Who is the only post-1066 English King who never married?

A Rudge (for Quiz League)

4. William II.
3. Jess Willard
2. The Marquis
1. King

Answers:



Byron Davies, third from left, pictured with Roger Stokes, Gareth Haines and Mike Fox of the Garw Valley Railway.

Railway school for apprentices is welcomed

SHADOW regeneration and transport minister Byron Davies AM has welcomed news that the Bridgend Valleys Railway Company is to set up a railway engineering school and take on apprentices.

The company, which is based at Pontycymer, where it has a loco shed, is working with the Worx Group Ltd to offer training on their site in the Garw.

The pilot course, which is already under way and will run to the end of April, has seen 12 young apprentices from the Bridgend area taken on. A further 12 will start in May on a second six-week course.

Subject to funding, the courses will run continuously throughout the year. Each group will concentrate on a specific area of skills, including construction, environment and railway track-work.

The apprentices will gain qualifications up to NVQ Level 2 and could then move on to full time employment in the railway industry.

Funding has been obtained from the Welsh Government via Bridgend College and there has also been sponsorship from Valleys to Coast.

Chris Adams, on behalf of the railway company which trades as Garw Valley Railway, said that the benefit for the railway was that it may be possible to begin reinstating part of the Garw Valley line to running standard, enabling the company to start operating trains along it, which would give the valley a huge tourism and transport gain.

"Our initial aim is to create an operating section over a short distance in Pontycymer so that we can run trains and generate income for the railway. But there is much work needed to improve drainage and the track first."

Mr Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM for south Wales west, paid a visit to the company on Saturday to see for himself the work that is under way.

He talked to Mr Adams, chairman Gareth Haines and long standing member Roger Stokes, and commented: "This is a very exciting development for the Garw Valley. The prospect of actually getting trains, whether steam or diesel, operating once again up the valley is thrilling."

"But I am equally delighted at the prospect of young people being offered the chance of railway engineering mini-apprenticeships."

"We have a desperate need in this country to teach skills like this before the expertise is lost for ever. Young people will greatly increase their prospects of gaining a full time job if they obtain qualifications in a hands-on work environment like the railway."

Mr Davies had a look at the company's locomotives, which include a diesel multiple unit which will be run initially as a fundraiser, and also at two of their steam engines - including Pamela, an austerity loco that was the last working steam train on the NCB mineral railway in Maesteg.

Pamela needs work to get her back on track and initially she may be loaned out to other heritage railways as an income generator. But

long term, the company would like to run her up the four-mile stretch of track from Brynmynyn to Pontycymer.

Mr Davies also met Dawn Davies of Creation who spoke about the potential of the heritage railway in terms of tourism and the valuable spin off this would create for other businesses.

He added: "Having a heritage railway, especially a steam one, will bring in thousands of people and give the whole valley a massive economic boost."

"In my other role as Shadow Minister for regeneration, I can see nothing but good coming from this scheme."

"It is a massive undertaking. There is so much work to do to get the track relaid, platforms built and rolling stock in place but I am convinced that if anyone can do it, this particular group of enthusiasts will."

"I am very impressed with what they have already achieved and by their determination and commitment to a task that has already taken years of their lives."

"I wish them every success in this venture."

Businessman wins award



Richard Salvage receives his Entrepreneur of the Year Award from Cranfield University School of Management.

RICHARD SALVAGE, Managing Director of The Recycling Company in South Cornelly, and founder of the MEDSA Group, was recently presented with the 2012 Entrepreneur of the Year award by Cranfield University School of Management, at a reception in The Royal Institution of Great Britain, London.

It is awarded annually by Cranfield University school of management to recognise outstanding entrepreneurial achievement. Mr Salvage developed Shield Medicare, a company specialising in the manufacture and distribution of clean room equipment for the medical and pharmaceutical industries.

It grew to become the European leader in single use sterile surgical supplies and sterile bio-cides. The company was sold to US conglomerate

Ecolab in 2006.

Following this, Mr Salvage set up the MEDSA Group, a £10m turnover group that comprises four fast-growing and profitable companies, all based in south Wales: Shield Automotive, Greased Lightning, DTR Medical and The Recycling Company.

He commented: "I am delighted to be receiving this award. The most satisfying part of being an entrepreneur is being able to see opportunities and help businesses fulfil their potential."

"In The Recycling Company, my latest acquisition, I saw true potential and now we don't just offer waste management services to businesses, we offer a powerful marketing and corporate social responsibility tool enabling organisations to say: we have achieved 'Zero to Landfill'."

The company employs 85 staff and is working with high profile companies, reducing waste to landfill by thousands of tonnes a year.

Eerie goings on at Castle Upon Alun!

THIS quaint place, hidden among the winding lanes to the east of St Brides Major, holds a multitude of ancient landmarks.

Originally named Oldcastle upon Alun, it is thought to date back to the 12th Century with a village and castle. This small area can be located in the dell overlooking the river Alun.

After the 15th Century, when it was known as Coflein, the whole area was then identified as Castle Upon Alun, Coed Y Wallas and Castle Upon Alen.

Castle Upon Alun is thought to have contained a castle or strong house, although no sufficient evidence of conflict has been found.

The castle is considered to have been of Welsh pre-Norman times, with many stone arches built which were probably part of the castle farm, although two mysterious arches have been incorporated in a nearby wall.

An archaeological dig unearthed three ancient graves from the Roman-Celtic era of the 1st Century, with artifacts such as iron spears and daggers found on the site.

Old Castle Down overlooks the village below and Daffodil Wood (Coed-y-Bwl), also nicknamed 'BlueBell Wood' because of its carpet of bluebells during the springtime, are significant features.

More than a quarter of a million wild daffodils, locally known as Twm Dilies, were thought to have been planted during the 19th Century by Mrs Nicholl, wife of John Nicholl, who lived in Castle Upon Alun House around 1840.

The old footbridge, known as Packhorse Bridge, is another fascinating characteristic, as it is now classed as an ancient monument.

This curious landmark, which is also known as a Clapper Bridge, dates back to the 18th Century and tapers from 1m to 1.6m in width with a ramped deck.

It was constructed using rubble stone with five small gaps of around 1m in length to allow the water to flow freely through it. The footbridge is 28m in length to allow inhabitants access to the land beyond the



Railway Bridge at Castle Upon Alun, an original sketch by Tracey Walmsley

Alun River. Clapper bridges are named as such because pack-horses or donkeys would cross upon it, and the sound of their hooves on the stone made a clapping noise.

The old brick railway bridge is situated north of Castle Upon Alun and was built by owners of local mines to link collieries between Bridgend and Barry.

The station and railway closed in 1961.

The Ford at Pont-Y-Brown has 16 stepping stones reaching out across it, so that during the winter period, people are able to reach the other side.

They cross the river Alun (Afon Alun) using the stepping stones which are known as Stepsau Ddion.

The beauty of the area is thought to have been a location for film crews from a bygone era. The ford normally dries up during the summer months, therefore allowing easy access for cars to reach destinations beyond it.

Castle Upon Alun contains other buildings of monumental importance, including Castle Upon Alun House, garden and cart shed, the 17th-18th Century Ty Maen Barn, Groes Antoni, Byre stables and other farm buildings.

Most surviving woodland has many a ghostly tale to reveal, and Daffodil Wood in Castle Upon Alun is no excep-

tion. During the hours of darkness, strange blue light anomalies seem to dance among the trees, yet no logical explanation has ever been found. Could these eerie lights come from the people of yesteryear, yearning to be remembered from beyond their terrain?

The terrifying feeling of being followed by an unearthly stalker beside the River Alun has been felt, only for victims to realise that nobody is actually there!

Why would a spiritual entity want to prey on the innocent in a world now beyond their understanding?

The chilling echo of heavy footsteps, tramping across the footbridge have been noted, only for observers to realise that no physical person is performing this terrifying deed.

Could these sounds be from a ghostly being, unaware that we now live in a modern world, or just an overactive imagination spearing thoughts into the mind?

The legendary tale of the frightful Yr Hen Wrach (the old hag) is thought to haunt an area close to the ford.

Described as being around 6 feet in height, she disappears in a flash.

But fact or fiction?

Only you can decide ...

HAYLEY WILLIAMS
Hayley can be contacted by email:
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

Corntown man's royal appointment

JACOB ELLIS, originally from Corntown, was recently nominated by Urdd Gobaith Cymru and the Welsh Assembly to attend Commonwealth Day celebrations in Westminster House, London.

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Positive report for pupil referral unit

THE Bridgend pupil referral unit at Aberkenfig, which supports children with emotional or behaviour difficulties, as well as pupils with attendance issues, is celebrating following its school report by Estyn inspectors.

They found that standards of achievement are good and all pupils make good progress in their learning and wellbeing.

"The future looks bright, with inspectors reporting a clear vision for the school, staff who work effectively as a team, and good quality care, support and guidance provided to the pupils," a spokesperson for the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) said.

"The Estyn report praised PRU pupils for developing key skills such as literacy and numeracy effectively - something already recognised as a strength when the school was recently awarded the Basic Skills Quality Standard."

All pupils were making good progress compared with their previous attainments before enrolling at the school, and most show a positive attitude towards learning.

Headteacher John Connolly said:

"Bridgend Pupil Referral Unit staff and pupils are delighted with our Estyn inspection report. The school has been nationally recognised for providing our students with excellent educational and social opportunities."

"It was identified that pupils are taking full advantage of these opportunities available to them."

"Our Key Stage 3 pupils are making considerable progress in developing their literacy and numeracy skills, supporting a return to mainstream provision. Our Key Stage 4 pupils gain access to 14-19 educational pathways to follow their chosen careers and to achieve their ambitions through the excellent results they are achieving consistently year by year."

"The report reflects the hard work and commitment of the pupils and staff at the PRU."

Coun Alana Davies, BCBC's cabinet member for children and young people, added: "A warm well done to the pupil referral unit. The head and his staff should be congratulated on creating such a caring school which is so committed to growing its pupils."

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HUNT FOR OWNER WHO DUMPED TERRAPINS

THE RSPCA are appealing for information after two terrapins were found abandoned in their aquarium on a lane near Parkfields Road, Bridgend.

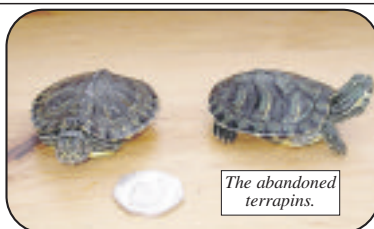
The pair of small North American slider type terrapins were left in a plastic tank/aquarium with about 1cm of water and no food inside on February 27.

The finder agreed to keep and monitor them until the RSPCA arrived. The terrapins are now in RSPCA care.

RSPCA inspector Nic de Celis said: "People might get terrapins as cute little pets when they are the size of a 50p piece, then get a shock when they grow much bigger a couple of years later and need bigger and better tanks, pumps and other equipment."

"They end up struggling to cope and there are dumped terrapins living in the wild as a result. This has all kinds of knock-on effects to our eco-system."

"Before keeping a non-domestic or exotic animal as a pet, even



The abandoned terrapins.

for a short period of time, you should find out what the animal needs and think carefully about how you are going to meet these needs under the Animal Welfare Act.

"The needs are just the same as they would be in the wild and often are based on a specialist environment, diet or a particular behaviour."

"There is never any excuse for abandoning an animal. If you really feel that you can no longer look after a pet, you can seek advice from an animal welfare organisation," he pointed out.

Anyone with possible information about the terrapins is urged to contact the RSPCA cruelty and information line on 0300 1234 999. Calls will be treated in confidence.

Tories' choice



Coun Ray Thomas
LOCAL farmer, Coun Ray Thomas, has been re-selected to stand as the Conservative candidate for the Llandow/Ewenny ward in the local council elections on May 3.

He has represented the ward for the past three years, following a by-election.

Daffodils and Welsh cakes order of the day!

PENLLYN AND DISTRICT WI

OUR darts team entered the Federation darts competition held in Llanharry, and unfortunately didn't win, but played well and gave a very creditable performance.

Two members attended the Glamorgan Federation Show meeting, held in Ystradowen, to glean information regarding the various competitions.

The monthly members' meeting was held on March 6 in the Village Hall.

Information was given regarding various forthcoming local and federation events, and several members bought tickets for the group meeting organised by Merthyr Mawr WI in Colwinston.

Entertainment was an 'activity evening' and also a belated St David's Day celebration.

Members were organised into small groups, and each group had to complete three activities.

Firstly, we had to create a daffodil from a variety of craft materials available; secondly, we had to compose a limerick beginning with 'There once was a Welshman called Dai.'

Thirdly, we had to create a percussion accompaniment to 'Sbosban Fach' using kitchen utensils. It proved to be a very live-

ly and amusing evening!

Later, teas, coffees and Welsh cakes made by Awen, were served and members were able to browse the bookstall.

Afterwards, each group read out their limerick and performed their rendition of 'Sbosban Fach,' amid much hilarity.

Next the judging took place and then the competitions and raffle prize winners were announced. Finally, all members were presented with a small bunch of daffodils to take home.

On March 21 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, we are resuming our 'craft evenings,' and planning and attempting posters and pamphlets in readiness for the Glamorgan Show competitions.

Future craft evenings will also focus on preparing for various other Show competition classes.

The next members' meeting will be on Tuesday, April 3, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall when speaker Jan Price is talking about 'Humorous Poetry.'

New members are always warmly welcomed; we meet on the first Tuesday in every month (except August), at 7.30pm in Penlllyn Village Hall. For further information, contact Novello 01656 674191, or Marjorie 01656 647115. MN

The PTA ladies get pampered!



THE Llanilltud Fawr Primary School PTA ladies' pamper night was a resounding success, as 55 ladies arrived last Friday, (March 2) for a fabulous evening of pampering and entertainment – all to raise funding for the school.

The ladies were treated to goody bags, beauty treatments at bargain prices, relaxation therapies and stalls offering healthy living products, hand-made jewellery and elegant home pieces.

Entertainment was provided by the talented youngsters from the Stagecoach Troupe of Bridgend.

On behalf of the PTA, Vicki McNally, said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who bought tickets and also to the following local businesses that supported the event."

"These include: Co-operative Foods, Boots The Chemist in Llantwit Major and Bridgend, Lloyds Pharmacy of Cowbridge, TrueRelax, Health Conscious, Body Shop at Home, Kensei Nutrition, Pretty Things, Karma Beauty, the Boverton Castle, Poppy Interiors, Zenegry Life, Sunkissed, Tazmin O'Neil, Karen Louise Jewellery, Carly Gates and the Blacksmith's Arms."



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Who wants to build what and where?

Barclays Bank Plc – 36 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – New internally illuminated Barclays letters, projecting sign and 2 x ATM surrounds. The Bush Consultancy Ltd – 27 Llynfi Road, Maesteg – Two illuminated fascia and information signs.

Mr P Roach – 46A West Drive, The Coach House, Porthcawl – Amendment to 11/637 (change of use of annexe to new; increase in roof height and fenestration alteration).

Mr Darren Evans – 27 Cheltenham Road, Porthcawl – Erection of single storey side extension with pitched roof. Mrs N Farr – 1 New Road, Kenfig Hill – Proposed two storey extension to rear.

Valleys to Coast Housing – Tudor Estate, Caerau, Maesteg – CESP scheme; repair and external wall insulation system to 37 private properties. Mr and Mrs Thomas – 3 Davis Avenue, Brynecethin – Erect two bedroom attached dwelling on land adj to 3 Davis Avenue.

Mr Jamie Evans – First floor Co-op store, Lias Road, Porthcawl – Change of use of the former college to a ladies gym.

Mr Gregg Cull – 16 Long Meadow, North Cornelly – Double storey extension to rear.

Barclays Bank Plc – 36 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – New security camera, replace glazed door with auto door and vinyl, replace night safe with glazing.

Mr Oliver Roche-Clare – 72 Penprysg Road, Pencoed – Single storey rear extension with pitched roof and roof

windows.

Williams Partners – Pant y Cornant Farm, Glynogwr – Installation of solar photovoltaic array to be mounted on the roof of the existing barn.

Ms Noreen Benjamin – 16 Brynawel, Bridgend – Ground and first floor side extension to provide new garage and bedroom over.

Mr I John – 6 Garnwen Road, Maesteg – First floor dressing room addition over single storey extension. Briarley Construction Ltd – Rear of 22 Severn Road, Porthcawl – Two storey dwelling within curtilage.

Biotech Services International – Units 2100, 2120 and 2130 Central Park, Western Avenue, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend – Back up generator to unit 2100, bin store to unit 2100 and ext air conditioning units to units 2100, 2110 and 2120.

Mr and Mrs D and A Jones – 1 Nursery Gardens, Litchard – Extension of private garage and alteration of access gate to yard/hard-standing area.

Barclays Bank Plc – 36 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – New advertisement signage, 2 x ATM surrounds, improvements to external appearance and internal alterations.

Capita Business Services Ltd – Land at Queens Road and South Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend – Continue use for vehicle storage,

ancillary uses and operational development and retain modular buildings.

NEWS in brief

Two choirs
TABERNACL Music Society, under Musical Director, Kevin Adams and accompanist Steven Burges, will be sharing the concert platform with another local choir, Noteworthy, from Maesteg and conductor Ryan Wood, on Sunday, March 25 at 7.30pm.

Also taking part is soloist Charlotte Ellis.

The venue is Tabernacl Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend. Tickets £7, students £5 (from the secretary on 07974765578) or at the door.

Tax help for elderly
TAX Help for Older People will hold an advice session at Pencoed Library on Tuesday, April 17. To book an appointment or to access helpline, telephone 0845 6013321.

Concert for disabled
2008 X-FACTOR finalist Daniel Evans will be performing at a charity concert on April 15 in the Phoenix United Reform Chapel in Bridgend.

The event will start at 3pm and will feature Daniel Evans.

Approaching Danger and Colours of One, and will also include a raffle

and an auction. Tickets are £10 (adults), £5 (under-16s) and £20 (families). Call Kelly Hall on 07817 929549 or buy tickets at the door.

All money raised will help send a team from Bridgend Disabled FC to Spain in June to play in the Catalan Cup.

This competition is being run by Spain Sportive and for the first time they are including a disabled section, so this will be an honour to be the only Welsh team taking part.

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'Let's make a stand against hate crime!'

— CALL TO LOCAL RESIDENTS

RESIDENTS have been urged to stand up to hate crime in a new campaign launched recently in Bridgend town centre.

Organised by the Bridgend Community Cohesion Group – made up of Bridgend County Borough Council, South Wales Police, Valleys Regional Equality Council, and organisations including Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People – the campaign aims to raise awareness of the issue and encourage more people to report hate crimes.

Accompanying the launch is a new poster and leaflet featuring rugby star Gareth Thomas which explains what hate crime is, how it can be reported and why it is critical that more people speak out.

Simon Green, chairman of the Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People, said: "I have been a victim of disability related harassment myself so I understand the importance of this campaign."

"We hope to let people know they don't have to suffer in silence and if you're a victim of a hate crime, whether that's due to your race, sexual orientation, disability or gender reassignment you don't have to accept it."

"The response from shoppers has been really good. One woman told me her partner has suffered years of racial abuse because of his nationality, but they didn't know they could report this. I also explained she could do this on his behalf. It's about spreading the word."

Coun David Sage, the Deputy Leader of Bridgend County

Borough Council and the council's equalities champion, added: "The council and its partners are pleased to be part of such a positive campaign of action."

"Anyone can report a hate crime, even if they are not the victim. This includes hate crimes committed over the telephone, via social media, email, texts, verbal harassment or graffiti."

"We will not tolerate hate crime in Bridgend county borough and we are proud to take this stand against those criminals who abuse people because of their race, religion, disability or sexual orientation."

For more information about the Bridgend Community Cohesion Strategy visit www.saferbridgend.org.uk



PICTURED (above) left to right, are: Emma-Louise Maher (Community Safety and Welfare Officer) PC Paul Evans (Hate Crimes Support Officer) SWP mascot, 'Billy Blue', Simon Green (chairman of the Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People) BCBC Deputy Leader Coun David Sage and Lee Jukes (Bridge FM).

Porthcawl Lions' charter night a roaring success!



District governor Laurence Pearce with Porthcawl Town Mayor Coun Barbara Stubbs and Porthcawl Lion President Joan Cosson. (Photos by JOHN COSSON).



District governor Laurence Pearce awarding Lion Stephen Simmonds with his certificate.

PORThCAWL Lions' 32nd annual charter night was a resounding success as members and guests from Lions clubs near and far gathered at The Atlantic Hotel to celebrate.

The occasion was also attended by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Barbara Stubbs and her consort Bill Stubbs. They enjoyed an excellent meal, followed by speeches and dancing.

Lions' president Joan Cosson, from the host club, proposing the toast to all Lions' Clubs, spoke of the success of Porthcawl over the past 32 years and its plans for the future, including the car boot sales at The Rest, book sales at The Seabank Hotel, the May Fayre – to be held this year in All Saints Church grounds and the golf day in June, at The Grove.

District governor Laurence Pearce, responding to the toast, told of initiatives worldwide, including supplying over three million doses of measles vaccines to eradicate this potentially fatal disease.

He also presented certificates to Lions Stephen Simmonds, Jeff Davies, Jackie Warren and John Moore for outstanding work within the organisation.

Vice-president Carole Roberts proposed the toast to guests and thanked The Atlantic and all who had worked to make the evening a success.

In response, the Mayor of Porthcawl praised the local Lions' Club for its work and success in raising money for various charities.

Paul Fielding, who sponsors the annual fun run, presented the club with a cheque and then it was time to work off the excesses of the evening on the dance floor!



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NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399 E-Mail: tynyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Railway enthusiasts

On March 24 at 10.15am-10.30am a special train will arrive at Tondy and travel to west Wales using the branch line past the Fountain Restaurant, Aberkenfig.

The train will have two class 37 engines pulling it. The class 37 engine was produced as part of the British Rail modernisation plan by English Electric Ltd with diesel electric drives.

42 class 37 locomotives were first ordered in 1959, the first being delivered in November 1960, with the last of this batch completed by mid 1962. Initially these locomotives were used on British Rail Eastern Region.

Maesteg Operatic Society

MAESTEG Operatic Society is planning to produce a pantomime in November at Maesteg town hall, based on the story of Cinderella, and the society is looking for persons aged 16 and over to act as the principal characters.

It is intended that auditions for these parts will be held in St Michaels and All Angels church in Maesteg on Saturday, April 14 from 12noon onwards.

If any readers are interested, contact Sarah Thomas on 07922 218462.

Cancer Research

THE charity members are holding a fundraising quiz at Maesteg Harlequins RFC, Talbot Street, Maesteg on March 22 starting at 8pm.

Everyone is welcome to help raise money for this worthwhile cause. Entry is £2.50 per person and teams of up to five will take part.

The winning team will receive a prize for each person and perpetual memorial trophies will be awarded for first, second, third and last place.

Maesteg Gleemen

THE choir is holding its annual concert on Friday, March 23, at 7pm in Maesteg Town Hall. The concert will have three guest artists, one of whom is Rhianon Owen, an ex-pupil of Portcawl Comprehensive school, where she enjoyed learning to sing under the guidance of the head of music, Linda Coombes and teacher Patrick Wheatley.

At 16 years of age, she first entered the

Bridgend young singer of the year competition senior section in 2006 in which she reached the finals, accomplishing the same in 2007.

In 2008 she accompanied the Maesteg Gleemen on its 50th anniversary tour of Canada and America.

Rhianon has performed with the Bridgend Youth Theatre and featured in the title role of *Iolanthe* in the 2008 open air festival with the Moonlight theatre.

In 2009 she was selected by the Welsh National Youth Opera to perform in its production of *Sweeney Todd*. In the same year she won the 'Bridgend's got Talent' competition.

Rhianon studied music at Cardiff University School of Music between 2007 and 2010, studying vocal with Jeremy Huw Williams and graduated with a BMus (Hons) degree. She then went to the University of Wales Institute to gain the PGCE qualification and qualified at teacher status in 2011 to achieve her ambition of becoming a secondary school teacher and is currently at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Rhianon has sung with the Cardiff University Chamber Choir and Swansea Bach choir under their musical director John Huw Thomas OBE.

Tickets can be obtained from any choir member, or John on 01656 735007; also from Maesteg town hall box office from tomorrow, Friday, March 16.

The choir rehearses in the Royal British Legion Club, Commercial Street, Maesteg on Monday and Thursday evenings and regularly has visitors who come along to enjoy the music.

School eisteddfod

AN eisteddfod is being held in Treorchy Primary School on Saturday, June 30, and the closing date for entries is April 30. It is open to all children in the following school years up to 18+, years 2 and 3, 4 and 5, 6 and 7, 8 and 9, 10 and 11 and 12 and 13.

There are a number of classes for both vocal and various musical instruments. The vocal has five competitive classes as follows:

a) Any sacred or secular song excluding those in films or shows.

b) Traditional/folk song in any language.

c) Songs from shows or films excluding any written by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

d) Songs from shows by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

e) Recital two contrasting songs (Baroque/Romantic/Modern periods).

The Brass has four competitive classes as follows:

a) Slow melody with or without accompaniment.

b) 'Air Varie'

c) Quartet

d) New class from a graded exam with or without accompaniment.

The piano and instrumental has five competitive classes:

a) A piece from the Baroque period.

b) A piece from the Romantic period.

c) A piece from the Classical period.

d) A piece from the Modern era.

e) Recital any two contrasting pieces.

Carer's Centre
BRIDGEND Carer's Centre at 87 Park Street, Bridgend (telephone 01656 658479), provides information and is a social centre for people who look after their parents, disabled children, friends or neighbours.

On March 19 and 26, there will be the book Cwtch between 1pm and 2pm.

On March 20 and 27 between 10.30am to 12 noon there will be a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing group.

On March 20, the REVIVE group, discuss carers problems.

On March 21, Howells solicitors will give advice on legal issues affecting carers between 10am to 12pm. Please book an appointment on 01656 658479.

On March 22, 'Body Blitz' exercise class between 1.30pm and 2.30pm with fully qualified instructor Darija.

Tondy primary school

MRS Susan Pilsher, the headteacher, has thanked parents for their support and complimented the high quality of exhibits for the St David's day competitions. The standard of work submitted exceeded expectations and the following children are to be congratulated.

Nursery and Reception: Writing and Art - First, Tyler Phillip; Second, Kai Hughes; Third, Tom Howells; Highly Commended, Brydie Jones, Dionne Tapner and Siobhan Cundle.

Photography - First, Shannon Evans; Second, Oliver Hatt; Third, Connor Crewe.

Recipe - First, Jacob Hale; Second, Shannon Evans; Third, Dionne Tapner; Highly Commended, Tom Howells.



ABOVE: Debbie Lewis and daughter with Eira Paskin, the musical director.

Cookery - First, Fabian Tapner.

Year 1: Writing and Art - First, Tanveer Samra; Second, Amelia and Olivia Webb; Highly Commended, Olivia Herbert.

Photography - First, Lucas Bryant; Second, Maddie Rose; Third, Jamie Coombs.

Recipe - First, Amelia Webb; Second, Olivia Webb; Third, Holly Lewis.

Cookery - First, Holly Lewis.

Year 2: Writing and Art - First, Keira Hill; Second, Brook Hawkins; Third, Tyler Richards; Highly Commended, Dylan Evans and Iestyn Ellis.

Photography - First, Benji Lock; Second, Millie Hatt; Third, Harri Gould; Highly Commended, Keira Hill and Molly Price.

Recipe - First, Tegan Chambers; Second, Keira Hill; Third, Ben Fisher; Highly Commended, Harry Gould.

Cookery - First, Keira Hill; Second, Benji Lock and Molly Price; Highly Commended, Cleo Tanner and Tia Leon.

Year 3: Writing and Art - First, Leianna Darks; Second, Eeva Salo; Third, Lauren Davies.

Photography - First, Eevo Salo; Second, Caleb Lake; Third, Mya Fahey.

Recipe - First, Iwan Griffiths; Second, Eeva Salo; Third, Lola Brown.

Cookery - First, Eeva Salo; Second, Leianna Darks.

Year 4: Writing and Art - First, Shannon Evans and Oliver Hatt; Second, Kai Hughes; Third, Tom Howells; Highly Commended, Brydie Jones, Dionne Tapner and Siobhan Cundle.

Photography - First, Shannon Evans; Second, Oliver Hatt; Third, Connor Crewe.

Recipe - First, Jacob Hale; Second, Shannon Evans; Third, Dionne Tapner; Highly Commended, Tom Howells.

Cookery - First, Jacob Hale; Second, Dionne Tapner.

Year 5: Writing and Art - First, Lowri Chambers; Second, Rebecca Evans; Third,



ABOVE: Soprano Megan Eleri Griffiths.



ABOVE: Americans having the Welsh translated by Huw Irranca-Davies MP.



ABOVE: Choir soloists Phil Davies (left) and John Jones.

Anesha Hopkins; Highly Commended, Cameron Shears.

Photography - First, Amy Thomas; Second, Sian Kinsman; Third, Rhys Ginnell.

Recipe - First, Sian Kinsman; Second, Lowri Chambers; Third, Sophie Andrews; Highly Commended, Anesha Hopkins.

Cookery - First, Anesha Hopkins.

Year 6: Writing and Art - First, Bethan Jimson; Second, Sam Hatt; Third, Morgan Owen-Evans; Highly Commended, Alex Smith.

Photography - First, Cian Thacker; Second, Sam Hatt; Third, Jack Bailey; Highly Commended, Daniel Thomas.

Recipe - First, Rhianon Haines; Second, Alex Smith; Third, Loren Taylor.

Christian Aid

IN support of the charity, members of Aberkenfig and District churches are organising a 'Hunger' lunch consisting of a

bowl of soup, bread and a Welsh cake, which will be provided to everyone at St John's Church, Aberkenfig on Saturday, March 17 between 12 noon and 1.15pm. The lunch costs £2.50 and all money raised will be donated to the charity.

Coffee morning

MEMBERS of St Tyfodwg Church, Glynogwr, are holding a coffee morning including the sale of home baked cakes etc on Saturday, March 17 between 11am and 3pm - everyone is welcome to go along and enjoy the goodies.

Cawl a Chân

I WOULD like to apologise to Vyron Evans, the chair of Ogmog Valley male voice choir, who introduced everyone at the beginning of the concert not Coun Clive Davies, as published last week. The concert was a huge success and a sell-out with extra seating having to be placed in a rear corner.

ST CLARE'S MUSICAL IN HIGH DEMAND



The live band, made of pupils from St Clare's School, rehearse some numbers for Centuries of Sound.

PERFORMERS in *Centuries of Sound* - the musical being written, produced and performed by enterprising pupils at St Clare's Senior School in Porthcawl, are looking forward to strutting their stuff on stage in front of local primary school children.

The pupils have had to put on extra matinee shows in response to a high demand for tickets from West Park, Tondy, Newton and

Pyle Primaries as well as the three planned evening performances!

The audience will be delighted to hear tunes by Madonna, Paul Weller, the Spice Girls, and Ellie Goulding accompanied by a live band, set within an intriguing storyline that follows the time-travelling 'Doctor When'. Other artists are also accompanied by traditional orchestral instruments

COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Fundraising event

ONCE again, the beautiful Ewenny Priory was the venue for a concert in aid of funds for this year's National Eisteddfod at Llandow.

The concert proved to be a great success, although a little disappointing, as the three tenors were unable to take part due to illness.

Their place was taken by a singer and accompanist from the Welsh College of Music and Drama. Following their success at a previous concert at the Priory, Llangan Primary School children were again invited to take part.

They sang four songs; 'All Through The Night', soloist Charlotte Tudor sang 'Y Ddraig Goch', and 'Little Welsh Home', and Ella Niman Board sang 'The Ash Grove'.

The success of these young children is due to the dedication of head-teacher Mary Noyes, and the teachers who give so much of their time with after-school activities.

Vestry club

THE next meeting of Saron Vestry Club will take place on March 21 at 7pm when, hopefully, there will be an improvement in the weather to allow the more senior

members to attend.

Media talk 'LIFE in the media' will be the theme by TV couple Lucy and Rhodri Owen when they speak in the St Canna's vestry on March 21 at 7.30pm.

Gymnast Ganu

THE popular Gymnast Ganu will take place in Saron Chapel on Sunday March 25 - entrance by programme (adults £7; children and senior citizens £5).

Choir from Cowbridge with soloist Megan Morris (harp) at 6.30pm. Tickets available from Mary Crandon (01656 861933) or Jill Ham (01656 663693).

Enjoy a flutter

ONCE again Treoes Hall will be the venue for yet another fundraising event on March 31.

Enjoy a flutter on the horses, or just listen to the singer Mel Stevens! The fun will begin at 7.30pm and all proceeds will be donated to Saron Chapel (tickets £5).

Diary date

HOGAROC at Penllyn Court Farm, Penllyn, on Saturday May 19. Further information from Mary Crandon (01656 861933).

*Interest-free credit is available on stock purchases. \$500,000 interest-free credit is available in order over \$100,000 deposit of CRUs required. Credit provided by World Financial Services Ltd. is available subject to initial 10% non-refundable "holdover" registered advance retention fee. www.worldfinancial.com, 1-800-368-2202. Our Real Price is the price that has been charged in at least 100 of our stores between 20:01 to 20:00 ET. See www.worldfinancial.com for details of sale prices and EXO-12. All offers subject to availability. Delivery charged separately - call below for details. Excludes limited, new and temporary. All products may not be in display at all times. Subject to retailer's discretion.

Mayor's Citizenship Award winners are announced

WINNERS of the Mayor's Citizenship Awards 2012 have been announced during a ceremony in the council chamber at the Civic Offices, Bridgend.

Individuals and groups were recognised for outstanding voluntary and charitable work and were each presented with a certificate.

The Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Chris Michaelides, said: "Each year, we receive outstanding nominations for the Mayor's Citizenship Awards, for individuals and groups of people making a real difference within their communities."

"This year was no different, and we had an even greater number of nominations than ever before – all of an exceptional standard."

Deputy Mayor, Coun Marlene Thomas, who presented the awards on behalf of the Mayor alongside council leader Coun Mel Nott, said: "It

was an absolute pleasure to hear about the people really going the extra mile for the area they live in and I am pleased that these awards exist to give them the recognition that they deserve. Congratulations to each and every one."

Coun Mel Nott added: "It is always an honour to represent the county borough of Bridgend at the Mayor's Citizenship Awards. This year's winners have all made such a positive impact and I feel confident that their efforts will inspire others to follow in their footsteps."

The winners

Tracy Birch: Awarded for her work with the Cefn Cribwr Garden Club; organising events, raising funds and helping the club to go from strength to strength.

Wyn Davies: Awarded for working tirelessly to put the Garw Valley on the map; from introducing the Plant! scheme to the valley and his work on the upcoming development of the mountain bike trail in Blaengarw.

Kay Gamble: Awarded for providing accommodation for young people under the Supported Lodgings Scheme for nearly ten years, supporting them in making the transition to adulthood and living independently.

Vic Gilbert: Awarded for his work within various organisations within the Llynfi Valley; acting for the needs of the elderly, especially veterans of the armed forces, and his efforts to raise over £10,000 for charity.

Anne Hawkins: Awarded for using her spare time to raise in excess of £60,000 for Multiple Sclerosis research by organising numerous charity events.

Michael Hughes: Awarded for going above and beyond his duties as a bus driver and making a significant contribution to the lives of the travelling public in Bridgend County Borough for the past 48 years.

Marion Hyde: Awarded for actively volunteering in her community for many years; including the Cornelly Luncheon

Club three times a week and involvement with Communities First.

Alun Hodges: Awarded for his work with the Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir; helping them to raise thousands of pounds for charity and his sporting achievements in bowling.

Angela James: Awarded for her hard work to set up The Bridge Mentoring Plus scheme to support young offenders when leaving prison and help them to achieve a more positive future.

Diane Jenkins: Awarded for her work as a carer for the Family Link scheme since 2003; to provide opportunities for children and young people with physical or learning disabilities to try new activities and experiences.

Dennis Jones: Awarded for his voluntary work as an adviser with the Citizens Advice Bureau; advising clients, and offering moral support and guidance above and beyond his volunteer duties.

Gwyn Lloyd: Awarded for his work as coach and long-standing committee member of Pontycymer RFC, three decades as a member of the Pontycymer Allotment Society and for volunteering at Pontycymer Nursery, helping them to achieve their third green flag award.

Merlin Maddock MBE: Awarded for being an active charity worker for many years, as well as



The winners at the Mayor's Citizenship Awards 2012.

being one of the founder members of the Garw Valley Forum and doing much to promote local tourism.

Gerald Manners: Awarded for his dedication within the community both as a volunteer street pastor and for his commitment as manager of Bridgend Foodbank.

Roger Marsh: Awarded for his dedication to raise funds for a variety of community projects in Wildmill and his roles as Chair of the Wildmill Community Life Centre and Treasurer of the Wildmill Tenants and Residents Association.

John Mills: Posthumously awarded for his work as founder of the Bridgend Involvement Group (BIG) which supports those in need of substance misuse support.

Thanks to John, BIG is still going strong nearly a year after his death.

Chris Morgan: Awarded for his dedicated work to research, obtain funding and drive forward the development of the BMX track in Caerau.

Patricia Parry: Awarded for her hard work for local charities since retiring as a local GP in Porthcawl, as well as her role as Chair of Bridgend County Crossroads for the past ten years.

Alan Pearson: Awarded for his fundraising efforts and work with a number of voluntary groups over many years; including Sandville, Maesteg Royal British Legion and as Chair of the Maesteg Community Gardens project.

Mal Reeves: Awarded for his work as a community volunteer for decades, as chair of the Llynfi Valley Forum for many years and as chair of BAVO for the past ten years.

Diane Spanswick: Awarded for her voluntary work in Cornelly, including involvement with Communities First, Afon y Felin Primary School and managing the Cornelly Community Centre.

Sue Whitaker: Awarded for her work as a volunteer trustee of BAVO for over 11 years, helping the organisation go from strength to strength and access significant fund-

ing for local groups.

Carol Williams: Awarded for her efforts to raise money for local charities and, in her role as manager of the local Post Office, to encourage quality customer service for members of the community.

GROUP AWARDS:

Bryn Jones, Peter Boast, Paul Derrick, Derek Woodhouse and Tony Cox: Awarded for their work for many years as volunteers at the Afan Argoed Miners' Museum, providing information to visitors and sourcing funding to improve and maintain the site.

Celtic Youth Sports Clubs: Awarded for jointly encouraging and developing the sporting potential of young people in the community, through the Maesteg Celtic RFC, Maesteg Celtic Bowls and Maesteg Celtic Cricket Club.

The Knitting Nanas: Awarded for collectively spending over 3,000 hours per year volunteering with numerous community groups, raising significant funds for

charity and working closely with local schools; as well as sharing their knitting and cooking skills with visitors from all over the world.

Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir: Awarded for being ambassadors for Bridgend county borough, overseas and closer to home, for over 40 years. Also, thanks to their work to establish a youth and a children's choir, this is now believed to be the only choir in Wales that offers the opportunity to sing for ages 8 to 80 plus.

Maesteg Animal Welfare Society: Awarded for its animal welfare work since 1985 to provide the Llynfi Valley with help to re-home dogs and cats, care for them and raise funds through the MAWS charity shop.

Clive and Marlene Richards: Awarded for the positive changes they have made to the lives of children they foster, encouraging them to become a part of their village community and helping them to thrive and grow in a happy family environment

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MONDAY

Barry
4.30 & 6.30pm
Brynion Hall,
Junction of Court Road
& Llanover Street
Lorraine - 01446 407002

Rhoose - 6.30pm
Celtic Way Community
Centre, Celtic Way
Helen - 01446 750738

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue Methodist
Church, Elfed Road
Sarah - 07525 852288

TUESDAY

Barry - 5.45pm
Market Street
Social Club
Upstairs Function Room
Joanne - 01446 404897

Barry - 4.30pm
St. David's Methodist
Church Hall,
Winston Road
Annmarie - 01446 736534

Llantwit Major
4.45 & 6.45pm
The Old School
Wine Street
Helen - 01446 750738

Sully - 6.30pm
The Old School
South Road
Niki - 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY

Barry
4.45 & 6.45pm
St. Francis Millennium
Centre, Park Road,
Porth-y-Castell
Annmarie - 01446 736534

Cardiff - 6.00pm
All Welcome
8.00pm MEN ONLY
Rob - 07708 941279
Cophorne Hotel,
Culverhouse Cross,
Cardiff

Barry - 6.00pm
Cadroxton
Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne - 01446 404897

Penarth
9.30am & 11.45am
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

Penarth
5.00pm & 7.00pm
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

THURSDAY

Cowbridge - 9.30am
Cowbridge
Rugby Club
Rob - 07708 941279

Barry - 6.00pm
Highlight Park
Community Centre,
Barry
Nia - 07793 885581

Dinas Powys - 6.30pm
The Cabin by swimming
pool, Hebron Hall
Sarah - 07525852288

Barry - 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall
Wyndham Street
Niki - 01446 740394

Cowbridge - 7.30pm
Cowbridge
Comprehensive
Aberthin Road
Rob - 07708 941279

Rob's quest to lose shedloads of pounds!

IN October last year, Rob Phillips opened his first Slimming World group at the Cophorne Hotel and within five months he had helped members lose more than 1,000 lbs!

He is now taking over the two groups in Cowbridge. Rob first joined Slimming World seven years ago. He went along to his local Slimming World group to support his friend Pearl. He discovered he weighed 19 stone, but went on to lose five stone. He also kept the weight off.

If you would like to find out more about joining Rob's groups in Cowbridge please contact him on 07708 941279.

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To register you will need: Registration with the GTCW or have CACHE level 1-4 or a degree and have a minimum of 6 months experience with children in a classroom setting within the last 4 years.

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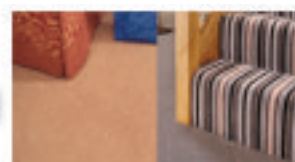
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Out and About with The GEM

Valeways walks

SUNDAY, March 11 at 2pm, 'Parks Walks', starting at Penarth Cliff Top car park.

Tuesday, March 13 at 1.30pm, 'Views Across the Vale', starting at the car park, Walston Castle, Wenvoe.

Lib Dem advice

WELSH Lib Dem AM for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding an advice surgery on Friday, March 16 in Pyle Life Centre, Bridgend from 2pm to 3pm.

No appointment is necessary.

Barry surgery

COUNS Charles, Hampton and Williams of Iltyd ward will be holding a surgery on March 17 at the Cwm Talwg Community Centre between 10am-12 pm. No appointments necessary.

Cowbridge surgery

COUNCILLORS Geoff Cox and Hunter Jarvie, Vale Council Cowbridge ward members, will be holding a surgery on Saturday March 17 from 11am to 12.30pm in the Robing Room of Cowbridge Town Hall. Appointments are not

necessary.

Mothering Sunday

ALL SAINT'S Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a special Mothering Sunday service this Sunday, March 18 at 10am.

There will be a children's activity session plus creche facilities for under-3s. Flowers are presented to all the ladies and refreshments served after the service. All welcome.

Councillors' surgery

COURT ward councillor Richard Bertin and the Court First Independent team will be holding a surgery with free coffee and Welsh cake at the Scout Hall, Everard Street, Barry on Saturday March 17 from 12 noon-1pm. No appointment is necessary. All are welcome to attend.

Art society

ON March 22, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Cardiff artist Jane Gagg, who will lead a practical painting session.

Members are asked to bring along a photo or drawing of a church or old building, pens and watercolours. Jane has been a regular visitor to the society for many.

The society meets at the Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge (7pm-9pm) and visitors are welcome. For further details, see www.thecowbridgeartsociety.com

Coalition AGM

BRIDGEND Coalition Against Racism holds its 12th annual general meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday, March 22 when the guest speakers are Rez Jamal and Darren Ralph from the Valleys Regional

Equalities Council (VALREC).

It will be held at Quaker Meeting House, 87 Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ. All are welcome.

Big Screen

BIG Screen's next presentation is *The Help* (cert. 12A) which will be shown on Thursday March 22 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

A young aspiring writer returns to the Mississippi, determined to write about the experiences of the African American maids who work for the local, prominent, white families at a time when the Civil Rights movement is growing in the 1960s.

Despite difficulties, many black women are soon coming forward to tell their stories, leading to tensions between the two communities.

Octavia Spencer won a BAFTA and an Oscar recently as the 'best actress in a supporting role'.

This is a long film (146 mins) finishing after 10.15pm, so there will be a longer interval than usual.

History 'tasters'

FRIENDS of Barry History invite the public to the Philip John Room at the Barry Library on Thursday, March 22 from 6pm-7.30pm for a short

series of brief (20 minutes each) 'taster talks'.

Speakers are Aldon Grisdale, 'Barry, Before the Docks'; Alun Robertson, 'World War One and Barry'; John Chucas, 'The Bells and Smells of Barry'; and Glenn Booker, 'The Americans in Barry in World War Two'.

Iolo talk

JIM JONES, the Archdruid of Wales, will give a talk in Dinas Powys about the life and times of Iolo Morgannwg, on Friday March 23.

Iolo Morgannwg, from Flemingstone in the Vale, was a poet, stonemason and literary fraudster, who founded the Gorsedd of Bards.

The talk takes place in Dinas Powys Parish Hall at 7.30pm. It will be in English and will raise funds for the National Eisteddfod at Llandow later this year.

Contact Rosanne Reeves or Janie Jones on 029 20512896; janieguy2986@yahoo.co.uk.

Cadoc surgery

CADOC ward councillors Fred Johnson, Anne Moore and Neil Moore will hold a surgery at tCadroxton Moors Community Centre, Barry, on March 24 between 10.30am and 11.30am. No appointments necessary.

WOMEN'S ART GOES ON DISPLAY



ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM is pictured (second right) with organisers of the exhibition.

BACKED by Welsh Government funding the Women's Art Association and Wales Assembly of Women have organised an exhibition of Women's Art to celebrate International Women's Day at Art Central in Barry.

They also organised a talk last Saturday, by Jo Payne about honour killings, which brought to the fore the extent of violence against women in this country and across the world.

NEARLY NEW SALE

A NEARLY new sale will be held on Saturday, March 24 between 10am-11.30am at Llantwit Major Rugby Club, organised by Cylich Meithrin Llanilltud Fawr.

There will be baby and children's clothes, equipment, toys, maternity wear at bargain prices.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Artist's talk

ARTCENTRAL Friends will host an event on March 29 at the Art Central Gallery, King Square, Barry, when Welsh artist Sue Williams will give an illustrated talk on her work at 7.30pm.

The talk is free to Art Central Friends members and £2.50 to non-members.

Activate fayre

PENARTH Youth Action (PYA) in partnership with Penarth Town Council, are planning an open day fayre for youth organisations in the Penarth area.

Activate aims to raise awareness of the opportunities available for young people aged 11-19 on April 13 at the Paget Rooms.

Contact Penarth Youth Action, penarthouthaction@hotmail.co.uk, or telephone 02920 701254 for details.

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Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D713.

● £2,000: 124852.
● The rollover, which now stands at £6,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 6 5 4 2 0 5
110425, 617685, 104042, 890309, 705773, 731252, 247128, 497285, 700762, 438661, 599983, 411855, 595015, 351921, 399467, 860253, 719803, 300776, 382511.

● £5: 771989, 937664, 214128, 265487, 536203, 302248, 594155, 858185, 442420, 480774.

860279, 482403, 661024, 615245, 677451, 608013, 538189, 734196, 502500, 738539, 159540, 456994, 203082, 405609, 632485, 672126, 673878, 419893, 693145, 829337, 310794, 752707, 675154, 619901, 833869, 153200, 139722, 802574, 469498, 313850, 678852, 638355, 377461, 884909, 551710, 528064, 172327, 254129, 655736, 199556, 466995, 519167, 500700, 552197, 487140, 258028, 819284, 879120, 678802, 621726.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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Unit 1 • Introduction



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BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...
Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IS KEEPING LOCAL ECONOMY ON THE MOVE

THE days when industrial estates were made up of factories or distribution outlets – and, therefore, of little interest to the general public – are long gone now.

That is particularly true of the Bridgend Industrial Estate, where the wide variety of businesses playing their trade cover almost every sector you could imagine.

In fact, it is almost misleading to call it one estate. It is really a series of estates, managed by different estate managers, spread out over a huge area.

by **PHILIP IRWIN**

Drive all around the estate, following the network of link roads, and you could easily notch up about five miles.

On that drive around the estate, you will find the motor sector well represented, with three main dealers, tyre specialists and body repair shops.

When it comes to your home or garden, the choice is vast, from furniture to tiling, from building materials to bedrooms, and from insulating material to turf for your lawn.

There are high-tech

companies such as Logica and Spectrum, and companies working in the education sector.

Indeed, Bridgend College has its own technology centre on the estate.

There are businesses based on health and fitness, and a nursery for working parents. There is even a fancy dress supplier tucked away down one road.

Some branches of government have made their home there, with the NHS Local Health Board based on the estate.

As you move to the administrative centre, the economic importance of the estate is



ABOVE: A site map to help visitors find their way around the estate.

acknowledged by the presence of several high street banks, and a post office, cafe, newsagent, and a laundry.

There is also, at each end of the estate, a pub for those important business lunches.

The manufacturing sector has taken one or two hits due to the economic downturn, and Bridgend Creamery fell victim to the volatile market for milk products.

The Bridgend Industrial Estate owes its existence to the war effort, being built on land vacated when the massive Royal Ordnance factory (ROF) was decommissioned after the Second World War.

The facts and figures of the estate are surprising, as it boasts an estimated 3,000,000 sq ft of commercial space, on an area of 300 acres.

There is traditional factory space, distribution centres, and high-quality office developments. The estate certainly benefited from the construction of the M4, and companies still find its good transport links make it a competitive place to do business.

Customers also find it an easy place to reach, and every company on the estate has plenty of parking to make it an easy visit.

A long-time tenant has been Solar

Sunshades, a company that manufactures 80 per cent of its window blinds, providing employment for 23 local people.

Huw Davies told The GEM: "We have operated successfully from the estate for so long because of the proximity of the motorway, meaning that we can service customers from west Wales to across the Severn Bridge."

"Also, anyone visiting our showroom finds the easy parking a big plus factor."

Paul Ezard, of Town and Country Bedrooms, is a relative newcomer to the estate, and has just celebrated his first year.

Town and Country is, of course, a well-established business in the area, but the bedroom store was a new venture, and Paul feels that the estate has proved to be an excellent place to show off the vast product range that he offers.

Denis Theodore, of Theodore Reclamation, a family business that has been trading on the estate for 20 years, said that he had been through good times and hard times.

He said: "It's not easy now but our figures are staying good. Customers benefit because we have to keep the prices low to keep their business."

In contrast, NFU

Mutual has just moved on to the estate, after outgrowing their two branch offices in Cowbridge and Laleston.

David Harris said: "We've only been open a short while, but our customers are delighted by the ease of access and the good parking. They are also impressed with our new premises."

"Some have commented that they are taking the opportunity to pick up items from other businesses on the estate."

The Central Park Estate is owned by Robert Hitchins of Gloucester, and is jointly marketed by Cooke and Arkwright, and Jones, Lang, LaSalle.

Jeremy Symons of Cooke and Arkwright was very positive about the future of the estate. He said: "We have recently secured a new tenant on the estate, Edmundson Electrical, and Biotec, which is already a tenant, has taken a further two units."

"In fact, Robert Hitchins has been so pleased with the take up that it is planning to construct more units."

He added that the estate was well placed to take advantage of the Welsh Government's drive to bring more high-tech 'life science' companies to Wales.

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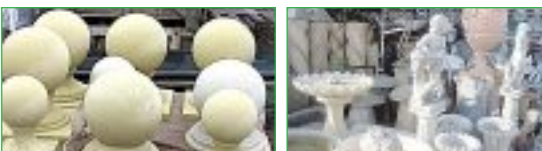
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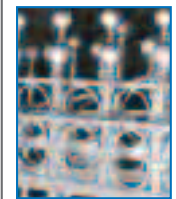
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BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...
Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

Bridgend Fabrics

HAVING moved from Bridgend town centre to the industrial estate four years ago, Bridgend Fabrics has gone from strength to strength.

We provide customers with the opportunity to buy bankrupt stock, discontinued and end-of-the-line fabrics at 'up to' 95 per cent off the normal retail price.

At our warehouse, we have one price, only "£2.99 per metre plus VAT", which means that we are selling at way below manufacturers' prices!

Customers can also choose from our Aladdin's cave of fabrics to have their curtains made by our professional curtain maker at drastically reduced prices.

So come along and browse - you won't be disappointed! Telephone 01656 767000.

Del's Tyres

DEL'S TYRES has been operating on Bridgend Industrial Estate since January 2011, and in that time has already built up a loyal customer base.

Delvin Baber, owner of Del's Tyres, has a passion for motor vehicles, and a wealth of knowledge of the trade - from running his own coach and taxi busi-

ness, to 13 years managing a busy parts department for a Renault dealership.

Del's Tyres prides itself on offering an honest, reliable service, at very competitive prices.

For all your tyres, valeting and repairs, please telephone, email or call in and see us soon. Telephone 01656 658038 or 07838 581275.

TOWN AND COUNTRY

TOWN and Country Bedrooms offers customers a complete service, from design through to installation.

Prospective customers can contact Paul and his team for a free, no obligation to purchase consultation.

A professional designer will visit to take measurements and, most importantly, listen to the customer's requirements while offering valuable advice when required.

The designer will then use the latest 3-D software to let customers see their dream bedrooms coming to life!

From the initial consultation through to delivery and installation takes on average four to six weeks - a remarkably short period to wait for your dream, high-quality, made-to-measure bedroom.

The company also offers a 10-year guarantee on its fitted furniture.

With more than 1,000 variations of styles and colours to choose from, there should be a bedroom to suit all customers' tastes.

Town and Country also supplies a choice of high-quality bedroom carpets to complement the beautiful new furniture - and an excellent range of semi-fitted wardrobes.

Also stocked is free-standing bedroom furniture from the prestigious Kingstown brand, as well as fitted home office furniture.

Please contact us for your free, computer-aided consultation.

Town & Country Bedrooms are at Unit 1, North Point, Western Avenue, Bridgend Industrial Estate, CF31 3RX, and can also be contacted on 01656 657526.



ABOVE:
FRF Bridgend has recently won a 'dealer of the year' award.

FRF Bridgend

FRF Bridgend recently triumphed in a year-long dealer recognition scheme, operated by Chevrolet, designed to reward the achievements of top dealers in the UK via a number of sales and after-sales measures.

These include staff training certification, innovative marketing activity, mystery shop results and parts and accessories purchases.

Chevrolet UK managing director, Mark Terry, said: "The Dealer of the Year award is a prestigious accolade, and it shows exactly how much effort the team at FRF in Bridgend have made with engaging in the

Chevrolet brand and raising awareness in the area."

FRF is a large independent family-run motor group whose two sites in Swansea and Bridgend offer multiple new car franchises, as well as a wide selection of used cars.

Servicing and MOT testing is available at both sites, alongside a vast stock of parts and accessories.

FRF Bridgend has been promoting the Chevrolet brand to the local area since 2009.

The Chevrolet Dealer of the Year programme was set up in 2009 to recognise the top performing dealers in the UK.

SEE OUR ADVERT ON PAGE 33.

Solar Sunshades

SOLAR Sunshades isn't just about the product, but also about the culture.

Our longevity, experience and wealth of industry knowledge means we are better equipped than many of our competitors to face these challenging times.

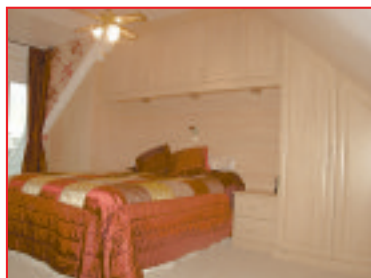
We have followed a path of continuous improvement by fine tuning, evolving and perfecting our systems and processes, developing them by using our knowledge and experience built up over this time.

Solar's reputation is built upon robust, reliable and functional products providing our customers, commercial or retail, with the right shading solutions for their home or workplace.

We at Solar strive to provide exceptional customer service and unbeatable value for money. We all focus on the lifetime value of the product, and not the price. This is critical to our success.

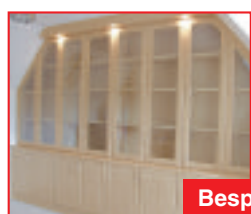
We take professional pride and commitment in everything we do - check out our weekly advertisement in the classified section (Telephone: 01656 663800).

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Town & Country Bedrooms are a South Wales based family fitted furniture company. We design and install genuine made to measure fitted bedrooms and home office to your exact requirements. There are hundreds of variations in colours

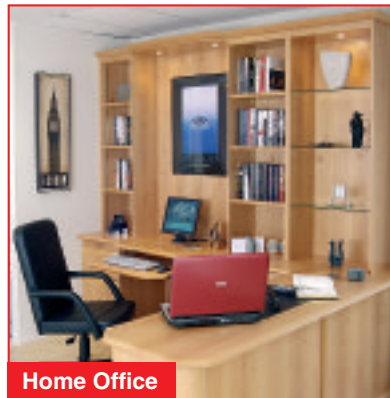


and finishes to make that dream bedroom a reality!! So call us today and book your **FREE HOME CONSULTATION!**

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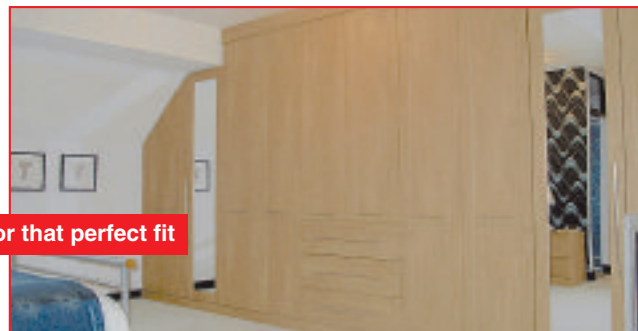


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- Full carcass construction on most units**
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- View our work online at townandcountrybedrooms.co.uk



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Bridgend CF31 3RX
Tel: 01656 657526

Town & Country Bedrooms

www.townandcountrybedrooms.co.uk

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BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...
Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

MEET THE ADVERTISERS



ABOVE: Town and Country.

ACTION DOORS

ACTION DOORS is a local garage door and industrial door company, with more than 25 years' experience.

With specialist teams covering Swansea and west Wales, Neath and Port Talbot, Rhondda Cynon Taff and mid Wales, Bridgend, Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, and Newport and Chepstow, we are well positioned to meet all of your needs.

We offer installations, or supply only, on all makes of domestic garage doors.

We operate a 24-hour emergency repair service.

Our sales and garage door servicing team are on hand to offer friendly, impartial advice on replacement garage doors and on any new build installations.

Call 01656 659274 for further information.



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At Joseph Ash, we galvanize everything -

from the small garden gate to heavy platforms and columns used in buildings.

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And if you think about it, the added lifespan to your garden gate or fencing is definitely worth the cost.

Speaking of cost, don't be afraid to ask beforehand.

For our private customers, we charge £1 per kilo - and this includes VAT.

So you see, it really is worth it.

For more information, telephone 01656 668735.



ABOVE: Solar Sunshades

DLT Training Ltd

DLT Training Ltd have been carrying out freight logistics, mechanical handling, construction plant operation and health and safety training since 1992, and have developed an ever-growing reputation for providing quality training and an excellent all-round service to customers.

DLT Training Ltd originated from the British Road Services Training centre based in Bridgend, and have a wealth of more than 40

years of experience in all aspects of road transport, warehousing and distribution, construction plant and health and safety training.

DLT have been carrying out training for many blue chip companies and local authorities in Wales and across the UK.

Training is provided for both the private and public sector.

Many private individuals have enhanced their employment prospects by attending accredited training courses at DLT.

For more information, telephone 01656 656382.



ABOVE: Denis and Carole Theodore.

Theodore Sons & Daughters...

DENIS THEODORE'S first salvage job was nearly 50 years ago.

During that time, he has also been involved extensively in selling caravans and letting caravan plots.

Now, he is concentrating on his reclamation business with his eldest son and wife, Carole.

Denis said: "We are a family able to deal with you caringly. Not the largest yard, but possibly the best range of stock. Oak fireplace

beams, chimney pots, Welsh cottage flagstones, slate slabs, church pews, bricks, finials, ridges, slates, tiles, fireplaces, pine doors, coloured sanitary ware, quarry tiles, sleepers and all sizes of wood.

"We are a reliable source of a materials that are not readily available nowadays, but are in high demand to maintain the character of the more traditional projects which people need to restore or undertake."

For more information call 01656 648936.



NFU Mutual relocate to Bridgend Business Centre

Julian Kelly and David Harris, Local NFU Group Secretaries and agents for NFU Mutual are one of the most recent newcomers to Bridgend Industrial Estate when they occupied Unit 1A, Morien House at the Bridgend Business Centre in February.

The move to the new premises enables all staff from the previous Laleston and Cowbridge Offices to work within modern single ground floor premises, with new facilities including customer interview rooms and conference room. The agency now proudly boasts five car parking spaces outside the front door of the office purely dedicated to visiting customers.

The decision to relocate the two old offices into a new single site was not taken lightly, but the main driving factor to move was the growth in the business over the last 5 years had meant that we had virtually outgrown our two existing premises.

The agents are acutely aware that the closing of the Cowbridge Office in particular may concern some existing customers, but they believe that new telephony systems, extended opening hours and ease of visiting the new office will more than compensate in terms of customer service.

Our Agency's ability to retain existing customers still remains paramount in our objectives each year. This coupled with the desire of the agents and the company to grow the business into the commercial insurance sector means that the Bridgend Business Centre is a perfect venue for us.

The office is well placed to cover the whole of the agency's trading area from Cardiff in the East to Swansea Valley in the West.

Many of our core agricultural customers are used to visiting the estate to make purchases from agricultural merchants, and others who have visited for the first time have expressed how easy it is to park and also benefit from the services offered by the banks, Post Office, and other businesses within the quadrant.

"We remain committed to providing level of customers service unparalleled in the insurance industry", said local agent Dave Harris. "We appreciate that none of us like change, and we constantly review processes and listen to customers."

An example of this review process is that for the past 12 months or so in the old offices, the only way in which we could deal with the volume of incoming calls was to introduce a "Press 1" call select system, which our customers found infuriating and started comparing us with other insurers.

However, now that we have all staff working in a single premise has meant we have been able to revert to all calls being answered directly by one of the team.

We look forward to welcoming your telephone call or personal visit!



Office Opening Hours are 8.30am - 5.00pm Monday - Friday
(Out of hours customer support centre 5pm - 8pm Monday to Friday, Saturday 9am - 12.30pm)
Unit 1A, Morien House, Bridgend Business Centre CF31 3SH
Telephone numbers have remained unchanged 01656 653111 or 01446 772057
Email: bridgend_agency@nfumutual.co.uk www.nfumutual.co.uk/bridgend



Murder thriller ticks all the right boxes

HAVING built up a resume as the king of hip, alternative cinema with the likes of *The Grifters* and *The Sure Thing*, John Cusack's recent film choices have been anything but.

Romantic comedies and blockbusters have been the order of the day, but his latest film sees him return to more varied ground in *The Raven*.

Cusack plays Edgar Allan Poe, whose stories come to life in the form of grisly murders being investigated by Detective Fields (Luke Evans); but when the person responsible kidnaps his intended wife-to-be Emily (Alice Eve) he faces a race against time to try and stop the murderer before Emily becomes another victim...

While the life and works of Edgar Allan Poe are dramatic enough to make solid cinematic fodder, *The Raven*'s central conceit is a clever

one that while cleaving slightly from other sources (most notably *Se7en*) makes for a refreshing change in the horror genre; and in execution it doesn't make too many missteps, the end result a solid watch that ticks all the right boxes.

Using the more gruesome of Poe's stories as the basis for a horror film works well, the murders having the level of gore and gruesomeness that horror fans will relish (best avoid that pre-cinema pizza) but married to a narrative that will keep you guessing as to whom the murderer may be, and just what his motives are.

The race against time aspect may be hackneyed but it injects a level of pace into proceedings that means the film never overly slows up and keeps you intrigued throughout.

John Cusack's lead performance is a key ingredient to the film's success, the character a perfect fit for Cusack's cool charisma, playing Poe as a beguiling and charming poet.

ROYAL WALK FOR HOSPICE!

TY HAFAN children's hospice will launch its 'Tiaras and Pyjamas' themed *Midnight Sleep Walk* this year to coincide with the start of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, on Friday, May 4, starting from the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff at midnight.

Registration is now open at www.midnightsleep-walk.co.uk or telephone the events team on 02920 672065 to secure your place.

SCREEN TALK



by
GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

While the early parts see Cusack playing light and for laughs, as the film progresses and things get darker, Cusack's turn develops along with it, the always watchable actor delivering one of his most impressive recent turns.

Alongside him, Luke Evans does his burgeoning reputation no harm at all with a solid turn as the inspector investigating the murders; Alice Eve does a decent woman in peril, while the likes of Brendan Gleeson and Kevin

McNally put meat on characters made from the barest of bones.

In the director's chair, James McTeigue brings a gothic sensibility to proceedings, with more than a hint of Tim Burton, while curtailing his more OTT excesses (the only concession being a slo-mo bullet shot that is slightly excessive).

He adds a sheen of style to the film, lensing it with a brooding menace that gives the film a foreboding atmosphere that works very well. *The Raven* is, I think, McTeigue's most mature and restrained work yet.

Where the film does fall down is its use of Poe in such a film; those wanting some historical background on the writer will feel short changed by the film's insistence on playing as a straight-ahead horror, while the period feel is occasionally dashed by some poor dialogue that fails to ring true (the mayor "wants results on this case" hardly the most authentic of period phrases).

However, overall this is a satisfactorily entertaining film that may lack in history but delivers in terms of suspense and drama; this *Raven* certainly does fly high.

VERDICT: An enjoyable and dramatic offering that adds some class to the schlock factor, *The Raven* is a watchable piece of work from director James McTeigue; solid turns from the likes of John Cusack merely add to the gravitas on show in this gothic horror. *Enjoyable.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Se7en* (1995), *Sleepy Hollow* (2000).



ABOVE, left to right: Lyndon Griffiths, WWA development manager, Ivor Gittens, Chair of WWA, Coun Huw David, cabinet member for resources, and Anne Hinchey, WWA chief executive, at Coed Parc in Park Street, Bridgend.

Old library HQ is sold

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Coun David added: "The sale of Coed Parc has provided the council with some welcome capital during the challenging current economic climate."

"It became surplus to requirements after our library service staff moved to Raven's Court as part of the council's office accommodation project, and the reference and information service relocated to Ty'r Ardd, alongside the Bridgend Register Office - to take advantage of its modern, fit-for-purpose building, ample car parking facilities and more central location."

St Brides Major library to open

LOCAL residents are invited to attend the grand opening of St Brides Major Community Library.

It takes place at 11am during the local produce and Easter craft market (10am-1pm) in St Brides Church Hall on Saturday, March 17.

Volunteering with the elderly

DO you have some spare time to assist the elderly? Sometimes an older person may not see a friendly face from one week to the next, putting them into social isolation.

Are you able to have a friendly conversation and sit with them for an hour or two each week?

If you would like more interaction, perhaps you could support and encourage older people to become more involved in activities and increase their confidence by escorting them to the shops and visiting groups.

We are also looking for volunteers to work with older people in sheltered and care home settings to enhance their computing skills. You

would assist in the use of skype, email, social interactive sites, websites and other specified programmes and software.

If you enjoy meeting people from a wide range of backgrounds, are interested in people, are caring and compassionate, you might like to assist with one of the above voluntary opportunities.

In return the organisations will provide full training, help you to develop new skills and reimburse your travel expenses.

Details of these and hundreds of other volunteering opportunities can be found at the Vale Volunteer Bureau, 34 Holton Road, Barry. Opening hours are Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm. Tel: 01446 421782 or email: info@vvb.org.uk for more information.

Man jailed for robbery

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Blake also tried to take from him a set of keys.

"He struck him to the left eye with the back of his hand for no reason at all, and Mr Gilett began crying."

Eventually, said Mr Thomas, Blake got off the bus, saying: "Don't tell the police."

Another passenger on the bus later told the police: "He didn't do anything to deserve that. He was sitting there minding his own business and didn't provoke anyone in any way."

When arrested, Blake was found to be in possession of a small amount of cannabis.

His counsel, Kevin Seal, said that when he went to Ms James' home, he was completely drunk. He had lived there in the past and wanted to attempt a reconciliation."

Regarding the robbery, Mr Seal said the only mitigation was his guilty plea.

"To his credit, he

said he was not proud of himself and would like to apologise. He cannot believe what he did. Sadly, he has used drugs and alcohol to block out his past."

Said Judge Patrick Curran: "You robbed an unfortunate passenger on a bus when you were thoroughly intoxicated."

New slipway ramp for local beach

OGMORE-BY-SEA is to get a new slipway ramp to provide improved beach access for emergency services and Penybont Surf Life Saving Club during sea rescues.

It will also give improved access to the beach for all users including disabled visitors and families with pushchairs.

Penybont Surf Life Saving Club has contracted the Vale Council's highways team to design and build the slipway this spring.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gdwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/00164/CAC
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition of stone wall adjacent to highway in association with approved planning application 2011/00935/FUL
Location/Lleoliad: Brooklyn, Piccadilly, Llanblethian
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gdwraeth: Llanblethian

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/00190/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Revised layout for proposed non food retail building (approximately 628m2 gross external area) to avoid Welsh Water sewer easement. Minor revision to planning permission 2011/00423/FUL
Location/Lleoliad: R. S. Bird Ltd., Cowbridge

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations, 1999

NOTICE is hereby given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as Local Planning Authority, has determined the following application(s), having taken into account the information contained within the Environmental Impact Assessment accompanying the application(s):

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2009/00946/OUT
Proposal/Cynnig: Development of vacant land at Barry Waterfront for residential (C3), retail (A1), cafes, bars and restaurants (A3), hotel (C1), offices (B1) and community and leisure uses (D1 and D2). Development of vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access including a new link road, re-grading of site to form new site levels and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing, landscaping, public realm and public open space provision
Location/Lleoliad: Land at Barry Waterfront adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry
Decision: Approved 2 March, 2012
(Documents relating to this application may be inspected free of charge at: The Planning Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Offices, Barry Docks, Barry CF63 4RT during normal office hours).

Dated: 15 March, 2012
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry,
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 15 March, 2012
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barry,
Y Barri,
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Local MP claims Vale of Glamorgan is hard done by on major grant support

THE Vale of Glamorgan is the poor relation when it comes to major block grants handed out by the Welsh Government, the local MP has claimed.

Alun Cairns says he has called on the Welsh Government to examine its strategy so that it delivers a "more level playing field" to the Vale – and all authorities in Wales.

Figures showed that the amount spent per person in the Vale for the

total of the 'revenue support grant', 'the specific grant allocation' and the 'capital financing grant' in 2010-11 was £77 per person less than Cardiff, £188 less than Bridgend and a whopping £425 less than Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The total of the three grants for the Vale was £201,045,000 and with a population of 124,976 it works out at £1,609 for each person.

Rhondda Cynon Taf, on the other hand, received a total of £494,613,000 for 2010-

11. With a population of 234,309, it means that the amount per person worked out at £2,111.

In each of the preceding four years before 2010-11, Rhondda Cynon Taf received more per person than the Vale – £373, £387, £390 and £93.

Rhondda Cynon Taf does have areas of deprivation, but so does the Vale – particularly in Barry.

The figures were released by the Vale MP, Alun Cairns, following research in the House of Commons library.

Mr Cairns said he was appalled at the facts and revealed he had written to Jane Hutt AM, in her capacity as Assembly Finance Minister, asking her to review local government funding.

He claimed it showed that the Vale is losing out by millions of pounds a year to other local authorities across Wales.

He said: "I'm really concerned that the Vale is missing out on the amount assigned per person from the funding provided by the Welsh Government.

"It is ridiculous that the Vale authority received £77 less per person than Cardiff, £188 less than Bridgend and a massive £425 less than Rhondda Cynon Taf – all

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

of which are authorities bordering the Vale.

"The costs are the same to build a school, resurface a road or to employ a teacher across Wales. Enough is enough.

"The Vale is missing out, and – as has been pointed out in the past – the Welsh Government has skewed funding against areas such as the Vale, Pembrokeshire, Monmouth and Powys.

"I have written to the Assembly's Finance Minister asking her to review local government funding, and I would call on people to voice any concerns they have to the Finance Minister and Local Government Minister.

"In credit to the Vale Council, recent audits have highlighted its efficiency but that is not an excuse for the Welsh Government to send money to their heartlands. As one of the financial engine rooms of Wales, the Vale needs to be protected.

"Some parts of the Vale share similar deprivation levels as other areas of Wales. Indeed, some wards in Barry are among the most deprived in Wales.

"I do hope that the

Welsh Government will look again at their strategy for local government funding to make sure that it's a more level playing field for the Vale, and for all local authorities in Wales."

The GEM asked the Welsh Government why the Vale received significantly less per person than bordering authorities. A spokeswoman said: "The figures quoted are well out of date as they relate to 2010-11. Data for 2012-13 was published in December and this clearly shows how the picture has changed in recent years.

"Funding for each council is based on a formula, agreed by all local authorities including the Vale of Glamorgan and the Welsh Local Government Association, which takes into account a range of indicators of 'need to spend'.

"This ensures that the limited pot of money we receive from the UK Government is allocated on an equitable basis across Wales."

A Vale Council spokeswoman said that in the figures for 2012-13, the Vale was still £129 per person below the average allocation, taking into account the

revenue support grant and business rates.

"The council's annual revenue budget is determined largely by the level of revenue support grant allocated to it by the Welsh Government.

"Distribution of this grant is based upon the Welsh Government's assessment of a council's relative need to spend to provide a standard level of service for a given year.

"This is known as the 'standard spending assessment' and is based upon formulae updated

periodically by Welsh Government to incorporate changes in both financial and non-financial data.

"The revenue support grant, together with the council's share of the National Business Rates Pool, equates to 74 per cent of the council's budget requirement of £205.062m for 2012/13, with the balance being met by council tax. It is supplemented by certain specific and special revenue grants.

"Based upon the Welsh settlement for

2012/13, the amount of revenue support grant and business rates funding provided by Welsh Government per head of population in the Vale is £1,186.

"The average for all Welsh unitary authorities is £1,315."

The spokeswoman added: "If the Vale was funded at the Welsh average this would equate to additional resources of some £16.4 million.

"A one per cent increase in council tax in the Vale raises approximately £519k."

Official warning issued over deadly bracelets

LAST week's GEM story about local pupils being warned about a dangerous drug that was supposedly in circulation has prompted the Vale Council to issue a warning.

However, the council's trading standards team has added that none of the items is known to have been sold locally.

The trading standards warning follows a national alert over poisonous Jequirity bean bracelets.

Residents in the Vale are now being warned about bracelets that contain poisonous red and black Jequirity beans.

The warning following a national alert about the bracelets and the beans

that contain the toxin 'abrin'. The toxin is a controlled substance that could cause serious harm if swallowed.

Council officers are advising that none of these bracelets are known to have been sold locally. However, the bracelets have been sold through 36 retailers across the UK – the main source being the Eden Project in Cornwall.

A council spokeswoman said: "The bracelets were on sale last year. People who have bought the bracelets are being urged to bag them, wash their hands and avoid touching their eyes.

"The bagged item may be disposed of safely in the household waste."

Anyone who has information about a local source of the item, should contact Vale of Glamorgan Trading Standards on 01446 700 111.

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'GIVE US A (fuel) BREAK!' - PLEA FROM WELSH INDUSTRY

WITH the British economy struggling to keep its head above water and fuel prices reaching record levels, a local businessman who has made his mark in the oil industry, told The GEM what he thought the Government should be doing to ease the burden.

Colin Owens is the founder of Oil 4 Wales, which is an independent fuel supplier with its own tankers and petrol stations. It also provides services to homes, businesses and agricultural concerns across the country.

Mr Owens, who is originally from Llantwit Major, said: "Oil is the lifeblood of the economy and when prices rise, as they have done, there is real suffering."

"I believe the Government should consider offering a rebate on duty to industry, hauliers and factories."

He said he was surprised that an industry rebate wasn't higher on the Government's list of considerations because it would provide more job security, would provide a kick-start for the economy and offer a measure of protection to British carriers from foreign hauliers who fill up abroad and do deliveries in the UK.

At the moment, Mr Owens said it was difficult to see prices easing.

"The price of oil is dictated by

by GEM STAFF

two things: the political situation and by city traders in places like London and New York.

"Prices won't come down while there is the current uncertainty around Syria and Iran."

"I believe there should also be a transaction tax on the companies of traders who are effectively gambling on the price of oil."

Once Oil 4 Wales quotes a price to a customer, it will honour that price, but Mr Owens pointed out that short term market volatility can cost the company.

"We can quote a price, and then the price goes up 1p overnight and we have to take it on the chin," he explained.

Mr Owens, who counts a number of Vale farmers among his many customers, said he believed it was more important that industry was helped than the individual motorist because boosting the economy and securing jobs was of paramount importance.

Denis Theodore, who runs a business on Bridgend Industrial Estate, told The GEM: "Fuel costs always seem to be on the up."

"We have had to try and make joint deliveries whenever possible, rather than sending the lorry out for just one customer."

He added: "We watch the diesel prices and Cardiff seems to be the cheapest. At the moment, whenever we are down there on business,

we fill up to save money."

The Chancellor, George Osborne, is due to unveil his latest budget on March 21 and many people will be hoping there will be a crumb of comfort in it, in the form of a cut in duty.

• Latest local prices per litre (checked in the last week).

The Vale:

Esso, Gileston: unleaded 137.9 diesel 146.9.

Texaco Waycock Cross: unleaded 138.9 diesel 145.9.

Morrisons, Barry: unleaded 136.9 diesel 145.9.

Bridgend county borough:

Tesco Cowbridge Road: unleaded 136.9, diesel 143.9.

Texaco, Cowbridge Road: unleaded 136.9, diesel 144.9.

Texaco, Tremains Road: unleaded 139.9, diesel 145.9.

Sainsbury's: unleaded 135.9, diesel 142.9.

Shell, Sarn Park: unleaded 136.9, diesel 142.9.

Co-op Pyle: unleaded 139.9, diesel 144.9.

Esso, South Cornelly: unleaded 139.9, diesel 144.9.

Murco, Laleston: unleaded 141.9, diesel 147.9.

BP, Bridgend Retail Park: unleaded 137.9, diesel 145.9.



First time author celebrates launch of thriller

LEFT: Evonne Wareham is launching her first novel tonight at Waterstones bookshop in Cardiff city centre.

A woman from Barry Island today (March 15) realises the dream of a lifetime with the launch of her first published book taking place at Waterstones bookshop in Cardiff tonight.

Evonne Wareham's thriller is called 'Never Coming Home' and is about a woman called Kaz who is told her daughter has been killed in a car crash, but is then told by a stranger that the youngster might not have been in the car. Kaz then begins a desperate search for her daughter.

Evonne said: "The book has been published by Choc lit which gives a readers' panel the opportunity to put forward their views on a book."

"They give the thumbs up or the thumbs down - fortunately, I had a good reaction."

"The book is a thriller with passionate romance, twists and turns, and is a bit gory in places - afterwards, I thought: 'Gosh, did I write that?' There are 10 dead bodies by the end."

Evonne worked in local government in London for a number of years, but had always dreamed of becoming a published author. She is currently a mature student studying history at Cardiff University.

The good news is that 'Never Coming Home' has been well received and she is working on a second thriller.

Never Coming Home, published by Choc lit, is a paperback original and is priced at £7.99.

HMS Cambria to be honoured

The Vale Council will be awarding the freedom of the county borough to HMS Cambria in recognition of its distinguished service history to Wales.

On Saturday, March 31, the ship's company of HMS Cambria will exercise the honorary freedom with a ceremony and parade through the town of Barry.

(More on this story next week).

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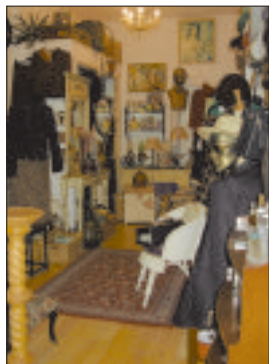
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Looking to move house?



Spring in the air – and it's one of the most popular times to move home...

Whether it be fixing all the odd jobs on your old house ready for the new owners, or making changes in your new home, don't worry – help is at hand – in the form of the businesses on this page, who are here to help you make that move seamless.

From removal firms, new bathroom and kitchen companies, useful handymen and window cleaners, to building maintenance and garden landscapers, we've got it all here.
WHY NOT GIVE THEM A CALL TODAY? IT'S THE RIGHT MOVE!

Useful things to remember when moving house

Here are some
useful tips on mov-
ing house:

PACKING

Use moving house
as an opportunity to
sort out your posses-
sions.

Throw away your
rubbish, and separate
items that can be
given to friends or
charity shops.

Get boxes well in
advance from local
shops or supermar-
kets, and save newspa-
pers for wrapping
breakables.

Professional removal companies

Unless you have
very few possessions,
call in the profession-
als to help you move
house.

It will relieve some



of the stress of the big
move. You can arrange
for it all to be done for
you, or you can do the
packing yourself – but
leave the heavy stuff
to the experts.

CHECKLIST

- Hire a removal company at least two weeks before you move
- Use a removal company that is a member of the British Association of Removers
- Make a list of your possessions so you can check if you've left anything behind

It will help if you
let the company know
the following:

- The amount of furniture you're moving, so it can choose an adequately-sized truck and plan the number of journeys needed between your old and new home
- A rough guess of how many boxes the company needs to pack, so it can estimate how long it will take
- The exact time you want the team to arrive
- Clear instructions and directions to your new property
- Arrange a parking space for the removal van.
- Always tell the removal firm well in advance of pieces of furniture which won't go through the door
- Make a plan of where the furniture needs to go in your new home

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Looking to move house?



Government's plan to kickstart housing market

DETAILS of an ambitious scheme aiming to "unlock the aspirations of a new generation of home buyers" were unveiled this week by the Prime Minister and Housing Minister Grant Shapps.

Mr Shapps declared the NewBuy Guarantee open for business – a scheme that could enable an estimated 100,000 prospective and existing homeowners to buy their dream home with much smaller deposits than currently required.

He added that the increased demand for new homes will also give a boost to housebuilders and the economy, and see thousands of workers returning to building sites across the country.

The new deals will mean that instead of a typical buyer requiring a £40,000 deposit for a £200,000 property, they will now only need £10,000.

The Government and housebuilders will help provide security for the loan, so if the house is then sold for less than the outstanding mortgage total, the lender will be able to recover its loss.

The deals will include:

- Barclays, who will offer 95 per cent 'Loan-to-Value' mortgages on properties built by Barratt, Bellway, Bovis, Persimmon, Redrow and Taylor Wimpey at 4.99 per cent fixed rate for two years and 5.89 per cent fixed rate for four years

- Nationwide, who will offer 95 per cent 'Loan-to-Value' mortgages on properties built by Barratt, Bovis, Bellway, Persimmon, Redrow and Taylor Wimpey at just 5.69 per cent fixed rate for three years, and 5.99 fixed rate for five years.

- NatWest, who will offer 95 per cent 'Loan-to-Value' mortgages on properties built by Barratt, Bellway, Bovis, Linden Homes, Persimmon, Redrow and Taylor Wimpey at just 4.29 per cent fixed rate for two years, and 4.99 per cent fixed rate for five years.

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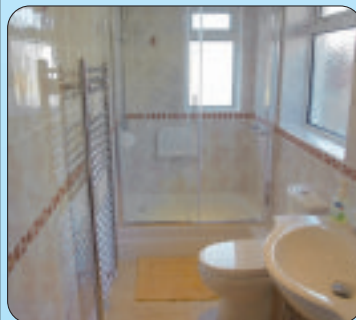
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Penarth Computer Club news

Using hard and soft returns – and the recycle bin

HARD returns are used to signify the end of a paragraph, whereas soft returns simply signify the end of a line.

When you are typing with a word processor the programme knows when you have come to the end of a line and automatically wraps the typing to the next line.

You need to do nothing because your programme has inserted an automatic soft return. You cannot see it and it will not be printed.

If you later change the text, the automatic soft return allows the programme to adjust its position to suit the changes made.

If you want the soft return to be made after a specific word you can pin it in place by pressing the shift and enter keys and getting a new line to start immediately after the soft return wherever it might be on a line.

Accordingly it is sometimes referred to as the new line character. It will show as a down-and-left arrow if the screen is set to show non-printing characters.

If you simply press enter you will insert a hard return that starts a new paragraph. Its minimum effect is similar to the forced soft return, but it can be set to do more.

As well as forcing the programme to start using the next line it can tell it to allow a bigger space of one and a half lines and to automatically indent the first word by a specified amount.

These things and more can be set up with-

in the programme's Normal.dot template (in Word, for example, use 'help' to find the template and follow the instructions).

Taking the trouble can make life easier for you and make your documents more attractive.

The recycle bin – You can change the settings of your recycle bin to suit the way you work (right click on the recycle bin icon and click 'properties').

If you rarely empty the recycle bin because you fear discarding files you might want to recover; you can increase its storage capacity.

Alternatively, you might reduce its size if you frequently empty it, but most people forget (it is usually set at 10 per cent of the hard disk).

You can turn off the delete confirmation query box that appears whenever you send files to the recycle bin, or even choose not to move files to the recycle bin, but immediately remove them from your computer when deleted.

We suggest that you do not opt to by-pass the bin all the time. For files that you are certain you will never need again you can by-pass the bin occasionally by holding down the shift key as you press delete. Just take due care!

The next meeting is on March 27 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth at 7.30pm. Kevin S will be explaining e-Bay.

For more information ring Mike on 029 20309579.

HOWARD DESMOND

Army pay book and family are re-united!

FOLLOWING a GEM appeal, an Army pay book from World War Two has been reunited with the family of the soldier it belonged to.

Last week, Tim O'Sullivan of the Royal British Legion highlighted the fact he had papers relating to 4619609 Tpr. Ferguson William John, who was born on November 21, 1917.

His address at the time was 18 Scott Street, Treherbert, Rhondda.

The pay book among the accumulated papers that had come from the Legion's hut in Lombard Street, Barry, which closed 20 years ago.

Two of Mr John's

family responded to Tim's appeal, his daughter, who is now the owner of the papers, and a man who turned out to be a close relative.

Tim said: "The two people were first cousins from Barry and had lost touch with each other."

"It is thanks to The GEM that the pay book has been returned to the family."

Trading standards

TRADING Standards will be at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday March 27 (10am-12 noon) to answer any questions informally.

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Unlocking the mind is key to Vale golf pro's teaching method

ANYONE who has ever tried to work on their golf swing, soon finds that it can get very complicated.

It is probably where the phrase 'paralysis by analysis' comes from. However, one Vale golf teacher has other ideas.

The first thing you'll learn at John Hastings' Natural Golf Academy, is to unclutter your

mind. Golfers spend most of their playing lives absorbing a multitude of tips, advice and information on how to play the game better.

None of what they are told is worthless, but together it can build into a tangle of thoughts, all jostling for attention when the player addresses the ball.

Too often, the result is confusion.

John Hastings offers a philosophy, gained

over a lifetime as a top player and teacher, that brings simplicity to the task.

He starts by telling his pupils why they find the game so difficult:-

They *think* too much, they *try* too hard, they are too *tense* and they use too much *force*.

'Ignore your thoughts, trust your feelings,' he says.

Taking the stress out of their game, making them aware of the ability they have within them, is the basic aim of the Natural Golf Academy at the St Andrews Major Golf Club, near Wenvoe.

John says that it is the only golf training centre of its kind in south Wales, and in it he offers instruction that is slightly off the conventional path of teaching.

Of course, there are certain basics like grip and stance that have to be right and there's technique to be learned.

"But," he says, "the approach has to be simple and I honestly believe that much of the modern way of teaching is making a simple game difficult."

There's strong ele-

ment of Buddhism in his theme of relaxation and inner harmony, but he has a thorough technical background, gained not only as a professional player in European tournaments but as a teaching pro in Germany and France. He also had a spell as Craig Stadler's caddy on the US PGA Tour.

His experience has convinced him that the swing should be one easy movement and not the result of a sequence of thoughts.

Hastings was born in St Athan in 1955 and was assistant pro in the mid-1970s at Bristol and Clifton Golf Club and then later at Cardiff Golf Club.

In 1975, he won the Welsh Assistants championship and then went to America where he teamed up with US Masters champion Craig Stadler.

He returned to Wales in 1980 and became head professional at Llantrisant Golf Club. During his three years there, he won the South Wales Professional championship and became course record holder at Llantrisant with a 65 - which still

stands today.

In 1984, he moved to Germany to become head pro at one of the country's leading sports hotels and then spent five years teaching at Baden Baden, Germany's third oldest golf club.

In 1989, he moved to France to be head teaching pro at the Bernhard Langer Academy in Strasbourg, Alsace.

On returning to Wales, he became golf coach at Cottrell Park and in 2005 coached the YMG Junior Welsh team at St Andrews, Scotland, where they came third.

His natural golf philosophy has been developing for more than 20 years and he has been rewarded by seeing definite improvement in both beginners and low-handicap players alike.

Among his many pupils is journalist Peter Corrigan, who for the past 14 years has been describing his adventures as a bad player in a column called 'The Hacker' in the *Independent on Sunday*. He has recently transferred this to the website www.thegolfing-hacker.com.

"No professional in the world would welcome the sight of me looming up for a lesson," says Corrigan.

"I am an out-and-out 28 handicapper and I have trouble even playing to that. But there is no doubt that John's methods are having a dramatic effect on my game."

"I am swinging more naturally and hitting the ball better, but what I haven't mastered yet is the consistency necessary to bring in a good medal card."

Former Wales and British Lion centre Tom Shanklin is another Hastings pupil who has seen a difference.

He said: "Having lessons from John Hastings at St Andrew's Major Golf Club has massively improved my game."

"In under a year I have managed to drop eight shots. I would highly recommend lessons with John for anyone wanting to develop their game."

SEE ADVERT ON THE BACK PAGE OF THIS WEEK'S GEM



ABOVE: Tom Shanklin (left) is working on his golf game under the guidance of John Hastings (right).

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'Cold shower in winter on the Falklands not a pleasant experience'

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon travelled to the Falkland Islands with members of the House of Commons Defence Select Committee to visit British forces based on the Islands.

She reports: The committee has not been able to visit the Islands for a few years, so the programme was very busy, she reports.

The Falklands are reached via RAF Brize Norton where a twice weekly 22-hour flight is available to service personnel, Falkland Islanders and returning veterans. The plane stops at Ascension Island for two hours to refuel before continuing the long flight south.



Madeleine Moon pictured during her visit to the Falkland Islands.

During the five-day visit to the Islands she was able to meet with the crew of HMS Clyde before they left to carry out coastal protection work and a visit to the marine nature reserve

area around South Georgia. Accommodation for the committee was in the main barracks block, where they experienced a three-day failure of the heating and hot

water system. "A cold shower in the winter in the south Atlantic is not a pleasant experience. Fortunately, we were so busy meeting serving personnel in the port, fuel distribution centre, families, the combat support teams flying Hercules air to air refuelling planes, search and rescue helicopters and Typhoons, we did not have time to linger under the water," she says.

"The visit included meetings with the governor of the Islands, the Chamber of Commerce

and the Falkland Islands government to discuss developments on there.

"The committee were especially privileged to visit Liberty Lodge set up by the Falklands' Veterans Foundation to welcome and support veterans returning to the Islands and to talk to some of the former soldiers staying there.

"On our final full day, we flew by helicopter to the top of Mount Byron to visit the hardworking team based at the remote radar head monitoring movements around the Islands.

"We then flew down to Blue Beach Cemetery in San Carlos to lay a wreath at the military cemetery. This was my second visit to the cemetery and a very moving experience to return to this most beautiful and tranquil site which saw such devastation."

The Defence Select Committee will be completing a report outlining their findings from the visit, including recommendations for changes and improvements to services and facilities at the base.

Sharing the care of disabled children and young people

PARENTS of disabled children and young people who are reluctant to use short-break services, may be missing out on a whole range of positive benefits, suggests Bridgend County Borough Council at the start of this year's Share the Care Week (19-25 March).

According to research, many parents are unwilling to leave their child at all, concerned that short break carers will not be able to provide such high quality care as they do, or fearing that their child will be unhappy and unsettled without their family or their usual routine.

Yet, short breaks provide disabled children and young people with valuable opportunities to meet new people, enjoy a variety of activities and social experiences and move towards independence, whilst their parents have the chance to relax, do other tasks and spend time with family and friends.

BCBC's Family Link

Scheme offers short term, temporary care to 0-18 year olds with learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities from a few hours a week to an overnight stay on a regular basis.

Short breaks carers receive comprehensive training and ongoing support and guidance.

Coun Alana Davies, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Our Family Link carers understand the pressure related to caring for a disabled child or young person, and want to help by taking a child into their home for

a while. Parents are not giving up any of their rights or putting their child 'into care'; they are simply sharing some of the workload, which can be immensely beneficial to everyone involved."

Share the Care week is an annual national campaign organised by the Shared Care Network charity to raise awareness of short break services and to encourage more people to come forward and consider becoming a carer for disabled children and young people.

Dewi (13) runs 5k for charity

DEWI Casley (aged 13) and his mum, Leanne, representing Tae Kwon Do Academy of Wales, they took part in the 5K St David's Day Race in Bute Park on Sunday March 4.

It was Dewi's first race and he came in with a fantastic time of 26.07.

Dewi raised over £100 for Katie Lloyd's charity 'Believe' in aid of Cystic Fibrosis.



13-year-old Dewi Casley with his medal.

AMELIA IS THROUGH, TOO!

AS proud parents, we were delighted to see your report of our daughter Amelia's success in the Rotary Young Chef Final (The GEM, March 8).

However, as runner-up she, too, goes through to the regional final on the March 17 in Monmouth. We

would like to thank Mr Andrew Huddart of Huddarts Restaurant for his help and advice to Amelia in preparing for the next round, as well as the encouragement of all at Cowbridge Comprehensive School. Go MeMe! Alex and Felicity Glanville, Ewenny.

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Land at Tynewydd Road, Barry



0.62 acre Potential Development Site (subject to planning)

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE COMMUNITY NEWS

Talent show

CYNFFIG

Comprehensive friends association is holding a 'Cynffig's Got Talent Show' at the school in East Avenue, Kenfig Hill, on Wednesday March 28 at 6pm.

They have 12 pupils showcasing their talents for not only the title, but also a prize of £50.

This fun-packed evening will have three heats of auditions before ending with an exciting final.

The talent will be judged by five official judges and by text votes from the audience (the texting will be non-profit making).

Prices are £3 and £2 concessions/children, and are available in Bethlehem Life Centre, Cefn Cribwr and Pyle Library, Pyle.

Parish news
LENTEN Lunches in aid of Motor



Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon, Mrs Stanford and pupils at Mynydd Cynffig Infants School at the awards assembly.

Neurone Disease will take place tomorrow, Friday March 16, at 12.30pm in St James' Church Hall, Pyle, and also on March 22 and

23. The cost of the lunch is just £2, so why not go along and support a worthy cause.

Movietime – is this time a classic film, and will be held in the church hall on Thursday March at 2pm.

The Mothers Union quiet evening will take place in St Mary Magdalene Church, Mawdlam on Tuesday March 20 at 7pm.

School awards
ATTENDANCE award – Well done to class 5 at Mynydd Cynffig Infants School who won last week's attendance award with 94.6 per cent.

A Fairtrade coffee morning is being held tomorrow, March 16, at 10am. Year-1 parents are invited to attend.

The Image Theatre are at the school on March 19 presenting *Stig of the Dump* to Reception and year 1 and 2 children. (£1 per child).

The Gregory Brothers Road-show will be at the school on March 23. There's no charge for this.

There will also be a cake sale on that day.

Award – At the invitation of school governor Mrs Greta Rogers, Local MP Madeleine Moon attended the Infants School last Monday to present them with the 'Basic Skills' award.

Headteacher, Mrs Amanda Stanford, received the award on behalf of the teachers and the children who have worked so hard to achieve it, and thanked Mrs Moon for taking time out from her busy schedule to come along to the celebratory assembly to present it.

Wellbeing Centre ACTIVITIES being held by Mental Health



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Matters, Wales, at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, on Wednesday, March 21, include: reading group from 2pm to 3pm and arts and crafts (Easter cards) from 3pm to 4pm.

There will also be a social afternoon from 1pm to 5pm.

Pupils rewarded
MANY congratulations to the following pupils at Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week: Ewan Flower – Class 1, Beth O'Neil – Class 2, Dafydd Jones – Class 3, Ewan Davies – Class 4, Meghan Evans – Class 5, Charlotte Grabham – Class 6 and Rebecca Coleman/Kate Thomas – Class 7.

The headteacher's award went to Emily Walters.

Congratulations also go to Isabelle Aubin, Imogen Jones, Cerys Barrett, Jodie Barnett, Jude Abraham-Jones, Ellie Griffiths, Holly May-Evans, Zuzanna Kubala, Alex Underhill, Mark Underhill and Charlotte Roberts for their excellent behaviour during lunchtimes last week and as a reward they will be joining Mr Goldsworthy

for lunch.

St David's Day – Mr Goldsworthy would like to apologise to Caitlin Jones and Neve Mitchell who, unfortunately, were left out of the winners' list last week. Caitlin came second in the traditional costume competition and Neve came third in the art competition.

Inter-school matches – On March 2, the school played away to Llangewydd Primary School in netball and rugby.

The rugby A team were in fine form and produced an excellent performance, scoring seven tries. Leon Jones, Rhys Perry, Luke Dingle, Bradley Jenkins and Connor Farnham scored a try each with Callum Lewis rounding off with two tries.

Luke Dingle once again had his kicking boots on, converting every try. It was a tremendous game against one of the school's closest rivals, with Llangewydd putting up a spirited performance.

The score at half-time was 14 points each, but the team ran riot in the second half and the school ran out winners, 49-14.

The school showed that they have strength in depth when the B team ran out winners by 30 points to nil with Cameron Jenkins, Oliver Roberts and Ryan Evans scoring two tries each.

There was mixed fortunes for the netball teams when they came up against strong opposition. The A team lost 8-2 and the B team lost

MULES REUNION!



BACK ROW (left to right): Terry Roper, Clayton Spanswick, Paul Dark and Phil Butcher. **FRONT ROW:** Martin Burnell, Andrew Burnell and Ray Giles.



At the Kenfig Hill RFC former players reunion were (left to right): Ray Giles, Tony Lewis and Doug Evans.

13-2. However it was better news when the C team played and won by a margin of 11-1.

School Assembly – Tomorrow, March 16, Class 2 will be holding their class assembly. Parents, relatives and friends are welcome at 10.45am.

St David's Day concert
St Theodore's would like to thank everyone who supported the concert arranged and given by the Cantorion Coety Choir and Mynydd Cynffig Junior School Choir.

The audience also experienced some delightful singing, both in Welsh and English, by 16-year-old Megan Eleri Griffiths, an extremely talented pupil of Ysgol Gyfun Llanabry and a previous winner of Bridgend Young Singer of the Year.

The evening's entertainment was compered with great humour by Tony Mullins.

It was also a delight to have the Cantorion Coety Choir singing a selection of old Welsh favourites on their first visit to St Theodore's.

The Mynydd Cynffig Cynffig Junior School Choir excelled themselves under their musical director, Miss Kathryn Brace, with an

enthusiastic performance that was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Acting headteacher of the school, Mr Richard Goldsworthy, was extremely proud of the children and spoke warmly of the importance of the church, school and the community.

Fr Jonathan thanked everyone for their fine performances and financial support for the Parish Church, £485, which will go towards the expensive repairs required to their historic 100-year-old organ.

Kenfig Hill RFC

WHEN the past and present players met last Saturday, (see photographs above) they held a minute's silence before the Wales versus Italy game in honour of

Gareth 'Mozba' Mills and Miles Jenkins, two stalwarts of the club, who recently passed away.

Miles was the last of the famous Kenfig Hill front row which he made up with Paul Bennett and Gareth Evans.

I am told from a reliable source that they sorted out that lot from Pontypool, in no uncertain manner, when they came down to play a friendly.

Apart from this sad episode, it was quite a nostalgic afternoon with some incredible stories flying about, telling of some dubious feats on the field, and some off it.

However, the atmosphere was tremendous and the afternoon ended in great style with a Welsh win.

Photographic Society holds its annual competition



Les Loosemore presents Richard Craze (right) with the winner's trophy

PYLE and Porthcawl Photographic Society held its annual portfolio competition on Thursday, March 8, at The Rest.

The competition comprised four images from each entrant, one in each of the following categories: Abstract or Still Life, Landscape or Seascape, Nature and Portrait or Candid (People).

The aggregate score of each four images decided the winner. Les Loosemore superbly judged the competition in his inimitable style, and not only gave the marks for each image, but also provided an excellent critique.

The winner was Richard Craze with 'Water Jug and Shadow', 'Old Fence Post', 'Petals' and 'Cat Woman'.

Second place went to



Cat Woman

John Corcoran with 'Reflections', 'Throwing Stones', 'Swan by the Stepping Stones' and 'Waiting'.

Third Place went to Glyn Edmunds with 'Cast Off', 'Waiting for the Sun', 'Hey, I'm Still Eating!' and 'The African Look'.

Congratulations to Richard on winning the competition and a big thank you to all who participated for making it such an interesting and entertaining evening.

GE

NEWS FROM NEWTON WI

PRESIDENT Pearl welcomed 57 ladies to a meeting of Newton WI.

Pancake day had been very successful, and pancakes were cooked by Shirley and Anna, who kept them coming off the stove.

Pearl mentioned the events coming up, which included our link meeting, trip to The King and

I, council meeting, trip to Avon Gorge, coffee morning and the famous 'Shirley walks'.

Shirley will lead hiking through Cowbridge (with coffee).

Ladies, if you would like to join us, come along to Gilgal Hall, Woodland Avenue, or get in touch with Pearl on 01656 772657 or Pat on 01656 788003.



LEFT: These local girls are sitting pretty at the top of the league

Porthcawl youth warm up with win

PORTHCAWL Youth welcomed a good Pentyrch side for this Friday night game. The visitors started very brightly and it looked like being a difficult night for the young seaweeds in the first ten minutes. However once the home side started winning some ball then the game was turned on its head and the seaweeds blitzed the Cardiff side with a scintillating display of attacking rugby in the first half, scoring three tries and two conversions.

The second half was a more stop start affair with the home side making numerous changes which disrupted the flow of the game. With Pentyrch trying desperately to get a deserved try, the young seaweeds held firm and were able to score two more excellent tries of their own to win the game 31-0. This young youth team can now look forward to playing an experienced Cefn Cribbwr outfit in the District Cup semi final at Cefn on Friday, March 16, kick off 7.15pm. **PB**

Double duty for Bridgend Athletic under-11s

BRIDGEND Athletic under-11s played Ystrad Rhondda in this week's fixture and were without vice-captain Jack Obbard due to injury. This meant that Sion Vigus played his first game in the forwards. The Ath got the match underway and both teams cancelled each other out early on. It was the Ath who managed to step things up and were rewarded with a well taken try from Thomas Anthony, who scored from close range. Connor Fabian converted to make it 7-0 to the Ath.

The Ath continued with a high work rate and created a chance for Dan O'Sullivan who crashed over the line to score. Connor Fabian converted to give the Ath a 14-0m lead at the break. Ystrad got the second half underway but the Ath carried on from where they left off in the first half. A kick down field bounced kindly for Thomas Reed who ran half the length of the field to score. Connor Fabian converted making it 21-0 to the Ath. A great run from Sam Owen saw him find his way over to score his first Ath try of the season. Once again Connor Fabian kicked the conversion to extend the Ath lead to 28-0. The visitors scored the last try of the match after some good forward play. The conversion was kicked to

make the final score Bridgend Ath 28 Ystrad Rhondda 7. Game 2 saw the Ath kick off. This matched proved to be a more even affair. Ystrad made some good early breaks but the Ath defended exceptionally well with some great tackles being made. It wasn't all one way traffic as when the Ath gained possession they were able to recycle the ball well through the phases creating some good attacks of their own. However neither side could break the deadlock before the break. Ystrad got the second half underway. The second half had a similar pattern too it and looked as though it would finish 0-0. With the final play of the match Ystrad managed to scramble over and score the winning try. The conversion was kicked to make the final score Bridgend Ath 0 Ystrad Rhondda 7. *Ath team: - Thomas Anthony (Capt), Gwilym John, Ffion Revell, Teo Fillis, Kasari Mehta, Sion Vigus, Sam Veasey, Louis King, Jamie Marshall, Dafydd Beech, Thomas Reed, Conner Fabian, Sam Owen, Jack Mustoe, Taine Waite, Brandy Fooks, William Goodhall, Megan Webb, Charles Creffled, Josh Tidy, Oran Harry, Lance Burn.* **BR**

Pencoed under-11s warm up in style with win

ON a sunny morning Pencoed under-11s travelled to Maesteg Welsh and again played sunshine rugby. The first few minutes were tight with Maesteg defending well and forcing Pencoed attacks into touch. Pencoed's forwards kept driving and captain Owain John went over for the first try with an impressive drive for the line. Sam Costello converted to make it 7-0 before he then danced through the Maesteg defence to score himself, which Mike Bosley converted to make it 14-0. Josh Sands kept on crashing through the defence setting up the rucks and quick ball was passed to Cael Chamberlain who drove through the cover defence for a 20 yard run only to be tackled just short of the line.

He managed to offload in the tackle to a supporting Sam Costello to score his second try converted by Owain John to make it 21-0. Maesteg kept driving and scored a breakaway and deserved try in the corner which was converted to make the score 21-7. Pencoed then stepped up a gear and the most popular try of the game was scored by winger Jack Rowlands, who received the ball from Mike Bosley, who made a superb pass out of the tackle to Jack, who stepped inside the defence to score in the corner, converted by Tyrone Harding, to make the score 28-7. New player Brogan Parrish, along with Ben Sullivan, Ben Jones, Cael Chamberlain, Levi Davies and Rhys Spurgeon, were effective in the rucks winning ball and feeding the impres-

Girls football team are flying high

WITH 10 wins, one draw and no losses, the girls of Porthcawl TA Football Club are rising to the top of the league table. A fantastic achievement for this group of players, considering the team was only formed at the beginning of season in September. The under-12s squad comprises: Eleanor, Holly, Sara, Ania, Chantelle, Ffion, Lilli, Emily and Jade. All abilities welcome, skills training provided; please telephone 0786 7744880.

Llantwit Major JFC under-14s through to Lions Cup semi-final

LIONS Club International hold an annual Five Nation football competition for players under 14 years of age and over the last few years, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club have sponsored a team with great success. This season, the Llantwit Major JFC under-14s have successfully progressed through earlier rounds to the quarter final, which was played at Bridgewater against Newquay FC. The ground conditions on the day were heavy and a strong wind influenced play; in the first half the quality of the football was very high, with Newquay just shading overall possession. Even so, Llantwit Major forward Richard Stephens scored an excellent goal for a first half lead of 1-0. Both teams worked hard and the football in the second half was a joy to watch. Llantwit Major were the stronger team and eventually pressure told on Newquay, who conceded an own goal. Both teams continued to fight to the finish. Just before the final whistle, Newquay scored a consolation goal to finish the game 2-1 in Llantwit's favour. Congratulations to the Llantwit Major JFC squad and to coaches Phil Clay and Russell, who now await the semi-final draw. **MIKE HALL**

Ath under-10s in tight games

ATH under-10s welcomed a very physical and determined Ystrad Rhondda side to Newbridge Fields. Ath pressured from the start but didn't manage to convert this into points. Strong running from Mason Hughes saw him tackled just short. Ystrad ran out of defence, good tackling from Dewi Harding, Morgan Bennett and Jules Burn slowed down the play, and a great steal from Hughes saw him power upfield and fantastic support play by Mason Edwards saw him run in the first try. Ystrad came back strongly, Wil Thomas and Kieran Richards putting in superb tackles. First to the breakdown was Jack Pitts who stole the ball and Richards cleared the Ath line. The ball was picked up and the visitors ran straight through the Ath defence to level the score. Too many handling errors cost the Ath as Ystrad quickly scored again to take the lead. Ystrad made good ground again, Sam Ralph and Blake Dando stopping the attack. Great work from Pitts allowed the Ath to steal the ball, the clearance kick from Harding saw Mason Edwards sprint upfield and force the defence to lose possession. A great pick up from Isaac Watkins saw him race for the corner, step inside the last two defenders to score a great try and level the scores at half time. The second half started at a frantic pace, both sides competing well at the breakdown with Emyr Anthony, Tom Jones and Josh Llewellyn leading the line for the Ath. Ystrad threw the ball wide, but good cover from Iwan Hill and Owen Thomas took the sting out of the attack. Ath worked the ball upfield; good running from Oli Raynor released Owen Thomas who was only stopped

by a superb cover tackle from the visitors. Quick hands from Liam Gully gave Sam Stradling space to run, but again the physical defence held firm. Gully fed Owen Thomas who then crashed through to take the lead. Ystrad fired up their game and too many missed tackles cost the Ath as their winger ran in the equaliser. Ath now picked up the pace and started using the ball wisely; Oli Raynor darted for the line and was unlucky not to score. Ath kept their foot on the gas and finally saw Owen Thomas fly over again to regain the lead. A minute later, Thomas found some space and ran in a well deserved hat trick. Ystrad fought hard to get back in the game with a strong run from their outside half to score a lovely individual effort to finish the game. Final Score Ath 10 - Ystrad Rhondda 20. **GAME 2** The Ath started the quicker of the two teams, good hands in midfield from Morgan Bennett, Dan Leyshon and Kieran Richards drove the Ath forward, and a good darting run from Isaac Watkins required solid defence which Ystrad delivered. Ystrad drove on through their forwards, good defence from Blake Dando and Jack Pitts keeping them out, but the visitors recycled quick ball and took the first score. From the restart, Pitts

Tondu under-12s impress in big victory

A big Pontypool side visited a sunny Pandy Park to face Tondu under-12s and got into their stride quickly with two tries to take an early lead. Tondu came back with some good hands to put M.Batters over and after a good steal of the ball by E. Thomas, and good hands by centres M. David, J.Evan's and wing L.Bissmire put fullback C.Gibson over wide out. Pontypool then hit back, finishing the half with another try for a halftime score of Tondu 10, Pontypool 15. Pontypool drew first blood in the second half with another early converted try. It was all Pontypool with their large pack commanding breakdown, but a valiant Tondu were determined not to let them score again, and managed to soak up the

pressure. Tondu put some good phases together, recycling the ball for E. Thomas to go on an arcing run to the corner. Tondu's tails were up, and the forwards went on a rumble, and scored a try which was a pack effort. From a loose ball in midfield R.Kershaw and I. Morris put Gibson over again; Evans converted. Tondu finished strong, from loose play on half way Pontypool left a gap that scrum half B.Rich sprinted through, going 40 yards for the line, with Evans again converting. Pontypool came back again, but Tondu's defence was sound and they won an exciting game of running rugby, much to the delight of the home fans. Final Score: Tondu under-12s 34, Pontypool 34 under-12s 22. **GC**



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 for 40 year old woman with long term illness. Must be reliable, practical and adaptable, with good hygiene/cleaning skills, hold full driving licence, reasonably fit for working with wheelchair. Approximately 30 hours per week, 5-6 days. Flexible hours. £7.50 per hour.
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Please call 0116 247 3323 Agy

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58 Vauxhall Zafira 1598cc
 Dark Blue, MOT to 16 Jan 2013; Tax 31 July 2012. 22,000 miles.
£6,000
01446 796400

V Reg Ford Fiesta Zetec
 Engine very reliable, MOT to Dec 2012, light switch faulty, hence
£400 ono
01446 720284

Nissan Micra 201 998cc 3-Dr
 Met Red, excellent condition, Tax & MOT.
£1,250 ono
07971 185146

2000 V Reg Ford Escort Finesse 5-Dr
 New MOT, 6 months tax.
£575
01446 793637 or 07930 945170

2003 Peugeot 307 SW 7 Seater 2.0 Auto
 Bronze, petrol, leather interior, 12 months MOT, 6 months Tax, panoramic sunroof, E/W, A/C, reverse backing sensors, 90,600 miles.
£2,400
01446 404141 or 07814 673733

Ford Focus 2002
 75,000 miles, FSH, 1 year road tax.
£1,500
01446 793484

Public Notice

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
Damac Transporters Limited
 of
 Old BRS Yard, Mariners Street, Goole, East Yorkshire DN14 5BW
 is applying to change an existing licence as follows: to keep extra goods vehicles and trailers at the operating centre at
 East Aberthaw, South Glamorgan CF62 3ZR
 to add an Operating Centre to keep 3 vehicles and 3 trailers at
 Aberthaw Works, East Aberthaw, Barry, South Glamorgan CF62 3ZR
 Owners or occupiers of land, (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehill Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Property

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 For a confidential chat about your options call Sandy now on
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Central Barry
 3 bedroom house, GCH. Refurbished & newly fitted kitchen. Bond & References Required
£540 pcm
Tel: 07971 289945

FOR SALE
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 Eglwys Brewis Cedar Road
 4 bed detached ex-showhouse, on-suite, immaculate. Rare opportunity for this bargain.
£221,995
 Part exchange 110% as valued by a local chartered surveyor for your present home.
 Office: 01254 265550
 Anytime: 07792 479418

TO LET
Barry Town Centre
 Good sized one bedroom flat
 Furnished. Phone entry system. Use of rear garden.
£395pcm
 Suitable for over 40s. No DSS.
Tel: 07912 138342

Family Notices

FLUCK
Eira Gwendoline
 Suddenly on March 7, at Morriston Hospital, Eira of Singingstone, beloved wife of the late Leslie, dearly loved mother and grandmother.
 Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnonn. Funeral Tuesday March 20, service and cremation 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice Wales c/o J James, 11 Ffnonn Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

The family of Pauline Huish wish to thank all family and friends for their cards, kind thoughts and support at this very sad time.
 Many thanks also to Dr Pardoe of Vale Group Practice, Canon Peter Leonard, Penny Snowden and Mary and Andrew of Thomas Bros Funeral Directors, whose help was invaluable at such a difficult time.

WALSH
Jennifer
 On March 8 at Llandough Hospital, after a long illness bravely fought, Jen of Rhosce. Beloved wife of Jeffrey, dearly loved mother of Jayne, Adrian and Martin, mother-in-law of Steve, Emma and Carol, much loved grandmother of Evan, Laura and Reece.
 Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnonn. Funeral Monday March 19, service 2pm at Porthkerry Church followed by interment in Porthkerry Cemetery. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Cancer Research Wales c/o J James, 11 Ffnonn Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

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Anniversaries

Rees & Doreen Evans
 Congratulations on your
Diamond Wedding Anniversary
15th March, 2012
 With love, Susan, Neil, Keith, Pat, Elliot and Alastair

HARDING

(née Mucklow) Marjorie
 Marjorie's family would like to thank everybody for their kind messages of sympathy and support.
 Thank you to those who could attend Marjorie's funeral service lead by Reverend David Treham. The service was personal and comforting.
 Thank you to College Fields for the care and kindness shown to Marjorie and to William James & Sons Funeral Directors who were very understanding and caring; also to the Blue Anchor who provided the lovely and plentiful buffet.

WILLIAMS

(PITCOCK) Dulcie Moreen
 Peacefully at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry on March 7.
 Dulcie, beloved mum of Michael, Janise, Joanne, Alun and David, mother-in-law of Maria, Maxine and Debra, adored grandmother and great-grandmother to all her grandchildren.
 Resting at AG Adams & Son Tynwydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her service in the chapel on Monday March 19 at 2pm, followed by cremation at the Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3.00pm.
 Family flowers only, but donations in lieu to Help For Heroes.

GOLDEN

Carole Louise
 Died suddenly, but peacefully on March 5th, 2012
 Carole, much loved wife of Laurie, loving mother of Ian and Claire, treasured Mammy to Natalie, Lucas and Nicholas, and soon to be born grandchild. Mother-in-law to Carl and Sian.
 Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Thursday, March 15th at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm.
 Flowers may be sent to Thomas Bros, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, or if donations preferred, sent to British Heart Foundation, 1st Floor, Bocam Park, Pencoed, Bridgend.
She will be sadly missed by all!

Birthdays

HAPPY 65TH BIRTHDAY
ANN SAGE
 on 14 March 2012
 HAVE A LOVELY DAY!
 Much love, Dad, Phil, Sue, Luke & Carly, Aaron, Kirsty & Ava.

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
24 The Pastures, Barry CF62 9ET
 We are acting for the mortgagees in possession and have received an offer of £85,000 for the above mentioned property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the agent before exchange of contracts takes place.
Grove Estates,
174 Holton Road, Barry CF63 4HN

Lost & Found

LOST
Cockatiel
 Grey & yellow with orange cheeks in The Knap area, Barry.
 Any information, please call **07791 192356**

FOUND
Ginger & White Cat
 Singingstone area, early March.
 For more information, Call **01446 772350**

CAT
 Female, white with black & ginger markings, red collar "ROSE"
 Warwick Way, BARRY
01446 722629

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan
 Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

DDYDDIAD CAU EISTEDDFOD BRO MORGANNWG YN AGOSAU

DYDD Sul, Ebrill 1 yw'r dyddiad cau ar gyfer cystadlaethau cyfansoddi Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, ac mae'r trefnwyr yn galw ar i ddarpar gystadlwyr beidio gadael pethau tan y munud olaf wrth anfon ceisiadau i s w y d d f a ' r Eisteddfod.

Meddai Hywel Wyn Edwards: "Mae'r testunau leni wedi cael croeso bwr, a nifer fawr ym mhob cwr o Gymru wedi bod yn sôn am gystadlu.

Gydag ychydig wythnosun unig i fynd cyn y dyddiad cau, dyma gyfle i ddarllen drwy'r gwaith am y tro olaf, ei argraffu a'i anfon atom mewn da bryd er mwyn iddo ein cyrraedd cyn y dyddiad cau.

"Bob blwyddyn rydym yn clywed am bobl oedd wedi bwriadu cystadlu ond heb gael cyfle i offennu eu gwaith, neu heb lwyddo i gael popeth yn barod mewn pryd, felly dyma'ch atgoffa, gydag ychydig drws bythefnos i fynd tan y dyddiad cau. Ewch yn ôl at eich gwaith a sicrhewch eich bod yn gwneud yr amser dros y dyddiau nesaf i'w gwbl-

hau a'i anfon atom. Pwy â w'yr - efallai mai ar eich desg chi mae'r awdl fuddugol leni. Felly, ewch ati i offennu eich gwaith da chi."

Mawrth 31 yw dyddiad cau cystadlaethau Dysgwyr y Flwyddyn, ac leni mae'r Eisteddfod wedi bod yn annog siaradwyr Cymraeg i enwebu dysgwyr ar gyfer y gystadlaethau fel rhan o'r ymgrych Carwch yr iaith - Cadwch yr iaith.

Mae cystadlaethau Dysgwyr y Flwyddyn yn rhad ac am ddim o wefan Eisteddfod 2012, neu gellir ei brynu arlein neu mewn siopau ar hyd a lled Cymru.

Mae ffurflenni cystadlu Dysgwyr y Flwyddyn a'r cystadlaethau cyfansoddi i gyd i'w cael yn y Rhestr Testunau, sydd ar gael i'w lawrlwytho yn rhad ac am ddim o wefan Eisteddfod 2012, neu gellir ei brynu arlein neu mewn siopau ar hyd a lled Cymru.

Chwilio am Superffan Dafydd Iwan GREDWCH chi byth, ond mae Dafydd Iwan wedi bod yn diddaru cynulleidfaoedd ar hyd a lled Cymru am hanner canrif leni. Ers y cychwyn cyntaf, yn Abergwaun yn 1962, mae'i ganeuon wedi gafael ym mhobol Cymru fel cyfylliant i hanes Cymru dros y hanner can mlynedd ddiwethaf. Ac fel rhan o'r dathliadau, bydd Dafydd Iwan yn cyflwyno noson arbennig ym Mhafiliwn Eisteddfod Bro Morgannwg yn

Llandw, eleni.

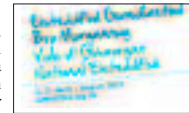
Dros y blyneddoddi, mae Dafydd Iwan wedi dod yn arwr i lawer, a rydym ni am glywed gan unrhyw un sy'n ddilynwr brwd. Rydym ni'n chwilio am 'superffan' mwyaf Dafydd Iwan. Pa mor bell ydych chi wedi'i deithio er mwyn mynd i un o'i gyngherddau? Lle yw'r lle rhyfddaf y gwelsoch chi Dafydd Iwan dros y blyneddoddi. Faint o'i recordiau sydd gennych chi, a sawl gwaith ydych chi wedi'i weld yn perfformio dros y degawdau?

Os ydych chi'n ddipyn o ddilynwr, gadewch i ni wybod. Dros y mis oedd nesaf, byddwn yn chwilio am bobl sy'n dwtl ar Dafydd, a sydd ag atgofion di-rif am ei yrfa ers y cychwyn. Ac mae'r cyngerdd hwn ar lwyfan y Pafiliwn yn sicr o fod yn atgof heb ei ail i unrhyw un sydd Yma o Hyd!

Gallwch anfon eich hatgofion atom drwy e b o s t i o gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk neu beth am ddefnyddio Facebook. www.facebook.com/eisteddfod. Ac os mai atgof byr iawn sydd gennych, mae croeso i chi gysylltu drwy Twitter

www.twitter.com/eisteddfod - a rhewch #superffanDI ar ddiwedd eich neges! Rydan ni'n edrych ymlaen i glywed gennych chi.

Nos Lun, Awst 6, bydd cyfle i deithio drwy'r degawdau gyda Dafydd Iwan a rhai o'i ffurfiadau a'i gyd-berfformwyr dros y 50 mlynedd diwethaf. Cawn gyfle i fwynhau Heather Jones, Ar Log, ac fe fydd Edward Morus Jones a Chôr Plant Heol-y-March yn ymuno gyda Dafydd i ganu rhai o ffurfiau enni plentyndod, Caneuon Cwm Rhwyd y



Rhosyn, ynghyd â'r ddwy chwaer o'r Bontfaen Greta a Miriam Isaac.

Anrheg Sul y Mamau

CHWILIO am anrheg ar gyfer Sul y Mamau os felly beth am brynu tocyon rhodd yr Eisteddfod er mwyn iddi cael ddod i fwynhau un o gyngherddau'r nos neu diwrnod yn yr Eisteddfod. Mae rhain ar gael i brynnu o wefan yr Eisteddfod www.eisteddfod.org.uk neu dros y ffon 02920 763 777.

Vale of Glamorgan Eisteddfod

DEADLINE

SUNDAY, April 1, is the closing date for the composition competitions for the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod, and organisers are calling on potential competitors not to leave it until the last minute to send in their work.

Eisteddfod organiser, Hywel Wyn Edwards, said: "This year's competitions have been warmly welcomed, with many people across Wales talking about competing. With only a few weeks to go before the closing date, this is the time for a

final read of your work, to print it and send it to the office to ensure that it reaches us before the closing date.

"Each year, we hear people saying that they'd meant to compete in the Eisteddfod, but hadn't finished the work or hadn't been able to send everything through by the closing date, so with a little over two weeks to go, this is a chance to remind all our competitors that we need you to send us your work.

"Go back to your compositions, and make the time over the next few days to finish everything and send it to the office. Who knows, this year's winning entry for the Chair could be on your desk. So make the time to complete your work."

March 31 is the closing date for the Welsh Learner of the Year competition, and this year, the Eisteddfod has been encouraging Welsh speakers to nominate learners for the competition, as part of the Give Welsh a Cwtch campaign.

The Welsh Learner of the Year competition is one of the Eisteddfod's most important and popular competitions, and the aim is to ensure that Welsh learners who play a full and integral role in their community and society are celebrated for their commitment to the language and to Wales.

Welsh Learner of the Year entry forms and competitions forms for all the composition competitions are available in

the List of Competitions, available to download from the 2012 Eisteddfod website, or can be bought online or in shops across Wales.

Search for the ultimate Dafydd Iwan Superfan YOU'LL never believe it, but Dafydd Iwan has been entertaining audiences across Wales for half a century this year. And since his first performance, in Fishguard in 1962, his songs have served to accompany the history of Wales as it unfolded over the past 50 years.

Over the years, Dafydd Iwan has been a hero to many people, and we want to hear from anyone who's an avid follower of the star. In short, we're looking for Dafydd Iwan's superfan. How far have you travelled to see him in concert? How many of his records do you have? and how many times have you seen him performing over the decades?

Are you a real Dafydd devotee? Let us know. Over the next few months, we'll be looking for people who people who love the man and his music, and who have fantastic memories about his career.

Contact us with your Dafydd Iwan stories - send them via email, gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk, facebook, www.facebook.com/eisteddfod. And if it's a really short anecdote, get in touch via Twitter

www.twitter.com/eisteddfod

fod - and remember to add #superffanDI at the end of your message! We can't wait to hear from you.

On Monday evening, August 6, we'll be travelling through the decades as Dafydd is joined by some of his friends and fellow performers over the past fifty years. We can enjoy Heather Jones, Ar Log, and Edward Morus Jones and the Heol-y-March Children's Choir will join Dafydd to sing some of our childhood favourites, Caneuon Cwm Rhwyd y Rhosyn, and Vale of Glamorgan born Greta Isaac and her sister, Miriam, will also perform on stage.

This concert on the Pavilion stage is sure to become a happy memory for all who've enjoyed his work over the past 50 years.

Mother's Day STUCK for a Mother's day gift idea? If so why not purchase Eisteddfod gift vouchers to give so that they can come and enjoy a day or evening concert at the Eisteddfod.

Gift vouchers are available to buy from the Eisteddfod web site www.eisteddfod.org.uk or by phone 02920 763 777.

Welsh phrase of the week / Ymadrodd yr wythnos:

Sul y Mamau hapus (Seal uh Mam-aye happy) which means 'Happy Mother's Day'.

Police appeal over spate of arson attacks

POLICE are appealing for information following a spate of arson attacks at an address on Gorwyl Road, Ogmere Vale.

A number of incidents have occurred at a residence in Gorwyl Flats over recent months.

A fire was started at the ground floor flat, after intruders gained entry at around 2.15am on December 31 2011.

At 11.30pm on Wednesday, January 18, police and fire officers attended the address

after the front door of the same flat had been set alight.

The front door of the property was again set ablaze at approximately 11.30pm on Thursday, March 1.

A white Renault van, which was parked outside Gorwyl Flats, was also damaged by fire, following an incident at around 3.30am on the December 26 2012. The flat was vacant during all of the incidents.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Bridgend CID on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Adverts must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.

Girl's Apollo mountain bike - £30
 2 single divan beds (with drawer base) £45 each or £75 both
 1 large dolls house - £20
 2 Ikea armchairs, rust covers, dark wood frame - £50 both
 Tel: 01446 711076

Maskreys Cherrywood Hall Table

With two drawers, height 31", width 42", depth 17". VGC.

£115 ono
 Tel: 01446 740124

Hetty Vacuum Cleaner

Nearly new, immaculate condition.

£60 ono
 Tel: 01446 711300

Shaker-style kitchen With work surfaces including base & wall cupboards £250.
Baumatic Stainless steel range cooker £250.
Antique pine double door wardrobe £250.
 Tel: 07717 761465

Matching Tables

(26x26x20) £35
 (28x47x16) £45
 Maple with black granite inserts.

Webber BBQ with attachments £45
 01446 793873

Brand new wood cot & mattress

£60 ono
 Tel: 01446 711300

New 2 seater leather sofa £100.

New single bed & mattress (brand new) £100.
 Hotpoint washing machine (used 3 times) £150.
 Tel: 01656 890489

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
 (01656) 880418

GOOD NEWS -

Sam Davies and Marcus Brabban wish to thank everyone for their support at the recent auction night held at the church hall in aid of the Joshua Foundation and Oz/USA Experience 2012.

They have reached their target of £4,800 - thank you to all who supported these young lads; we look forward to hearing of their experiences when they return.

Ogmere Retired Residents Association met at All Saints, Southerndown and were entertained at the meeting when Eric and Joy shared their experience of an Austrian holiday and travel on the 'little

trains'; the photography and scenery was spectacular.

The AGM of the association will take place on March 15 at All Saints at 2pm - all welcome.

It is noted that The Farmers Arms (Pub on the Pond) St Brides Major, is closed for refurbishment and will re-open for business in April.

St Brides community library: you are invited to the grand opening on Saturday, March 17 (11am) at the church hall, St Brides Major in the company of the MP, AM and a film crew.

Once again, the Davies family of Slade, Southerndown are kindly allowing the church to pick daffodils for Mothering Sunday in St Bridgets on March 18.

GUEST COLUMN

Why it is so vital the NHS in UK (and Wales) is modernised

by **ALUN CAIRNS,**
 MP for the Vale

THE Health and Social Care Bill has received lots of publicity in recent weeks with many critical of the reforms being proposed.

The reforms that relate to the rest of the UK are in conjunction with an increase in funding by £12.5 billion by 2014.

This will not be the case in Wales. As a devolved matter, the Welsh Government will be cutting the Welsh health budget by £534 million in real terms over the coming years.

This is the biggest year-on-year cut to the health budget in modern history. A staggering cut of £534m or 8.4 per cent will be the cut between 2011-12 and 2014-15.

The King's Fund and Wales Audit Office have confirmed that the Welsh NHS faces the toughest funding settlement of all the UK's health services.

What this means to the people of Wales is that more patients are waiting for treatment here than in England and Scotland - and they are waiting for longer periods.

The number of patients waiting to start treatment in Wales rose by 17 per cent over the year (StatsWales, correct

as at February 22, 2012). The number of patients waiting longer than 36 weeks for treatment has doubled in a year to 7,699.

The number of patients waiting to start treatment in Wales has risen by 45 per cent since the General Election in 2010.

Patients waiting longer than 36 weeks to start treatment in Wales has more than doubled over the year. The Welsh Government's target is for no patients to wait longer than 36 weeks from referral to treatment.

Cancer treatment and hospital infection levels are also vastly different between Wales and England. Patients are currently five times more likely to get cancer drugs in England than in Wales, and patients in Wales are twice as likely to get an infection from hospital visits than those in England.

In the House of Commons

last week, when questioned, the Prime Minister used the figures noted above to demonstrate what happens if resources and money are used to improve and change the NHS to make sure that there is a proper chance for people to get the treatments they need.

Improvements and investment in the NHS will lead to shorter waiting lists, and reduced waiting times between appointment and treatment stages. Nothing in the UK Government's reforms undermines the NHS's founding principles - a health service, free to all, funded from general taxation, based on need and not ability to pay.

I urge the Welsh Government to increase investment in the NHS in Wales and not to make cuts. It's vital for the NHS across the UK as a whole to modernize - and I certainly do not want to see people in the Vale and across Wales suffer due to lack of investment and reform.

Spending alone is not the solution - it must be matched with modernisation.

Local teenagers overcome autism and become sports coaches for younger pupils



Ashgrove Special Needs School pupils Joe Blackley (front left) and Ben Nicholas (front right), together with pupils and staff from the school and the Vale Council's Disability Sport Wales Officer, Simon Jones.

TWO young autistic teenagers at Ashgrove Special Needs School, Penarth, are helping younger pupils, as sports coaches at the school.

Ben Nicholas and Joe Blackley (both 18) took their interest in sport to a new level by joining a Dragon Sport course with the Vale Council's sports and play development team, to learn skills needed to organise and lead sports sessions for children.

Joe said: "A couple of years ago, I would have felt scared to coach sport, but now

I'm much more confident. Sport has changed my life and I really like teaching the pupils each week. I am going on a football coaching course soon and I'll be introducing different sports into my sessions too."

Ben, from Barry, said: "I wasn't particularly interested in sport until fairly recently, but now I love sport and coaching, and it has had a big impact on me. Sport has helped make me healthier and fitter than I ever was and I enjoy making sports such as football and athletics really fun activities that everyone can enjoy."

Dragon Sport Organisers courses are run throughout the year in the Vale of Glamorgan. If you'd like to find out how you can play your part in giving youngsters an excellent start to their sporting education, please call the Vale Council's Active Young People Co-ordinator Ben Williams on 01446 704795.

For details about the wide range of sports available locally for people of all ages with disabilities, please call Simon Jones on 01446 704728 or go online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsand-play.

Llantwit Major JFC under-14s through to Lions Cup semi-final

LIONS Club International hold an annual Five Nation football competition for players under 14 years of age and over the last few years, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club have sponsored a team with great success.

This season, the Llantwit Major JFC under-14s have successfully progressed through earlier rounds to the quarter final, which was played at Bridgewater against Newquay FC.

The ground conditions on the day were heavy and a strong wind influenced play; in the first half the quality of the football was very high,

with Newquay just shading overall possession.

Even so, Llantwit Major forward Richard Stephens scored an excellent goal for a first half lead of 1-0.

Both teams worked hard and the football in the second half was a joy to watch.

Llantwit Major were the stronger team and eventually pressure told on Newquay, who conceded an own goal.

Both teams continued to fight to the finish. Just before the final whistle, Newquay scored a consolation goal to finish the game 2-1 in Llantwit's favour.

Congratulations to the Llantwit Major JFC squad and to coaches Phil Clay and Russell, who now await the semi-final draw.

MIKE HALL

Club qualifies for Eurocup 2012

RECENTLY, three clubs battled it out in the 2012 Welsh Club Championship, hosted at the Monkstone Petanque Club.

The three clubs were Penarth Petanque Club, Wenvoe Petanque Club and The Wheatsheaf Boule Club.

After a series of triples and doubles matches against each other, the final standing was: First, The Wheatsheaf Boule Club; second, Wenvoe Petanque Club; third, Penarth Petanque Club.

The Wheatsheaf Boule Club will now be formally invited to enter the 2012 EuroCup.

JS

THE Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do travelled to Cheltenham where more than 300 competitors from all over the UK converged to take place in the Global Tae Kwon Do International English championships.

The championship started with the pattern section with Thomas Haysham taking first place and Matthew Bennett taking third in their categories.

Once the pattern sections were completed, the point stop and con-

tinuous sparring categories started.

Ollie Tipples had some bad luck, just missing out by one point to take second in the point sparring.

He was then unfortunate to have some dubious judging in the continuous sparring, eventually taking third place.

Shannon Haysham did exceptionally well to take second place in both the girls lightweight point and continuous sparring.

Dominating his category, young Cameron Williams took first place in the point sparring.

Unlucky to be in the same point sparring category, Cian Allen and Evan Baron both fought

their way through to take second and third places respectively.

Having to compete against taller competitors, Thomas Haysham did extremely well to take second places in both boys point and continuous sparring.

Not to disappoint, Morgan Gomez Jones took second place in point and first in the continuous sparring, while Dominic Todd took first in his point and second in continuous sparring.

Competing in the men's heavyweight point sparring category, Jamie Halford came away with third place.

Bradley Halford took first place in his continu-

ous and first in his point sparring categories.

Not to be left out, Lucy Newman and Keita Enfield also took first place in continuous and first place in their point sparring categories, making all three double GTI English champions.

Just missing out on a podium place this time

were Morgan Harry and young Cody Jacobsen.

Instructor and coach Ron Thomas would like to thank the parents for their support and use of their cars on the day as we nearly missed out due to the coach not turning up as planned.

RON THOMAS

CADOXTON TAE KWON DO AT ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

PICTURED: Morgan Gomez Jones, Keita Enfield, Jamie Halford, Dominic Todd, Matthew Bennett, Morgan Harry, Lucy Newman, Shannon Haysham, Cameron Williams, Thomas Haysham, Bradley Halford, Cian Allen, Evan Baron and Ollie Tipples.

The Huskies notch up two revenge wins

AFTER a successful January, the Barry Huskies continued their improved form in February with the first team picking up two more victories.

The Huskies' first win was against Swansea University 65-55, avenging an agonising loss earlier in the season.

This was a low scoring, defensive game from both sides, but with six Huskies players scoring in double figures, the students could not completely contain the home side. Twenty-year-old James Williams top scored with 16 points.

This victory was quickly followed up with an 86-66 win away at Cardiff Capitals, again avenging an early season defeat. This victory was described by coach Trigg as being "the best team performance of the season".

Balanced scoring saw the Huskies outscore the Capitals in every quarter and, despite being a much smaller team, the Huskies team play completely dominated the game. Lloyd Roberts top scored for the Huskies with 25 points.

The good form was quickly cut short when a young and very talented

Kenfig Cougars side came to Barry and won 77-50. Without leading scorer Lloyd Roberts, the Huskies' older squad didn't have the legs to keep up with the young visitors, who dominated throughout.

Only veteran players Ian Gibbons (13 points) and Elliott Thomas (11) scored in double figures. Following this run of results, coach Trigg said: "We've picked up some good wins and started to click as a team the past few weeks. I'm particularly pleased to see our younger players step up and play some consistent basketball."

The Huskies second team only played one game, suffering a narrow 72-67 loss away at the Cardiff Capitals. This was a tough loss as the young side almost won despite playing without leading scorer Jack Dyer, but a lack of consistent scoring from the Huskies proved to be their undoing. Dave Pitman top scored with 27 points.

The Huskies are still recruiting from all age groups from under-12 to senior. For more details contact Alan Rees on 029 20531531, visit www.barryhuskies.net or see our Facebook page, Barry Huskies Basketball Club.

ET

Seaview lads results

FISHING has been quiet recently, with a few codling appearing to a lucky handful of anglers while rockling have made up the bags.

Evening match attendances are down on last year reflecting this. On top of this doom and gloom, a trawler was sailing the shoreline close in at Sully Bay, cleaning out what little fish are remaining.

On February 26, 15 fished but only four weighed in, while the previous Friday evening, the match was won by Paul Coles with a solitary dogfish. Sunday's honours went to Aida Harris with a mixed bag, Paul Crooke was in second, with Steve Doble and Roger Green on their tails.

Barrivale Bridge Club



Pictured are the club mixed pairs winners, Mike Close and Carol James.

RESULTS from Barrivale: February 28: First, Mick Green and Denis Mottram, 59.52 per cent; second, Jane Brook and Judith Owen, 57.81 per cent; third, Graham Jones and Irene Thomas, 55.73 per cent. Jane and Judith won on handi-cap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale; telephone 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.



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Yaris TR 1.0 VVT-i Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 48.7 (5.0), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 58.9 (4.0). CO2 Emissions: 111 g/km.

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Auris Edition 1.33 VVT-i 3 door manual Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 39.2 (7.2), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1), Combined 47.8 (5.9). CO2 Emissions: 136 g/km.



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THINK of jazz and the famous musicians Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Count Basie, Miles Davis and Duke Ellington spring to mind.

My parents are fans and so were my grandparents, and perhaps this is why Honda chose the name for its popular hatchback, which has been around for the past 11 years.

Each one that I see on the roads seems to be driven by a more mature motorist. And so it was with some fear of prematurely ageing that I stepped inside the latest 1.2 litre Jazz, complete with facelift, for 2012.

Would it make me feel like I needed my own facelift by the end of our relationship?

Its strengths are immediately obvious – the interior, with large dials and switches are user-friendly, especially for the elderly. The compact size makes it a good city car.

Its rear seats easily fold flat while the front ones can fully recline, giving a massive total length of 2,400mm inside the car.

The 399-litre boot beats all its rivals hands down, including the Ford Focus. The Jazz's double boot with under-floor storage combines with the regular boot space to accommodate more awkward items.

However, the Jazz's performance is sloth-like. Although the five-speed manual box is decisive, progress through the gears is pretty painful, particularly if you're trying to conserve fuel.



The 2012 Honda Jazz.

A better option is the punchier 1.4-litre variant.

Passengers who like their drinks will be pleased to see an array of cup holders and there's plenty of storage space too, thanks to door pockets and a double glove box. Rear passengers get privacy glass as well.

The fuel gauge drops too quickly for my liking but this isn't surprising when you learn there's only a 42-litre tank, compared to the standard 60 or so.

However, carrying less petrol means reduced weight and, therefore, greater efficiency.

That fuel gauge could be more helpful though, because when the refuel light comes on at 33 miles range exactly and the driver then refills with say, six-and-a-half litres (well over one gallon), it refuses to rise back up.

To make matters even worse, the digital reading also insists that it needs more fuel, which is not true and very unnerving.

Logic suggests that it should easily travel 50 miles, as that is what it averages per gallon and my test proves that it does.

Refilling with at least eight litres results in the gauge moving, I am advised.

A light shell and aerodynamic design sees the Jazz cut through wind with minimum resistance. It reminds me of the times I've taken the controls of a light aircraft and the subsequent buffeting that ensues when the wind strikes.

Parkers, the car experts, write: "The Jazz offers versatility, space and equipment. It is also more economical, comfortable and quicker than before, but is just as easy to drive in town, with a tight turning circle and great all-round visibility."

It adds that the Honda is "one of the most family-friendly small cars around".

Few complaints will be found by those who stick to urban driving, keeping it regularly topped up. After all, Honda has sold more than 3.5 million of them.

New price range: £11,295 - £19,305.

Honda Jazz 1.2i VTEC S (AC) 5-door.

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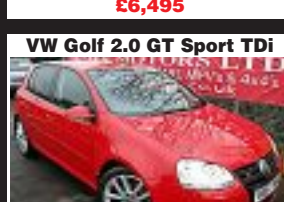
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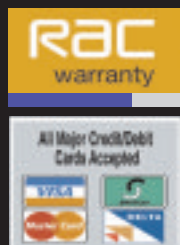


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HHEAD COACH Warren Gatland's carefully-weighted words to his young troops on the eve of Wales' penultimate Six Nations test last weekend, were designed to warn against being carried away on the torrent of hype being whipped up in the media, while calling on their new-found steely resolve to handle the mounting pressure of expectation, as they close in on a third Grand Slam in eight campaigns.

He was right, of course, to spell out that victory over the wooden spoon contenders at the Millennium Stadium was seen as a mere formality by buoyant Welsh fans, with many pundits predicting the hapless Azzurri would be put to the sword in a hopelessly one-sided mismatch with the Six Nations table-toppers.

Italy's world class No 8, Sergio Parisse, also added to this pre-match mood by gloomily conceding that his team stood little or no chance against "the best team in the championship," who had already disposed of Ireland, England and Scotland.

Whether or not the Italian captain was offering a refreshingly candid assessment, or hoping to give his team a small psychological

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

edge by tapping into fears of Welsh complacency, the stage was set for the mother of all rugby upsets by written-off underdogs who knew they really had nothing to lose.

In fact, from the kick-off, the Italian defence immediately came under intense pressure, as powerful Welsh thrusts threatened to overwhelm their lines, and when Leigh Halfpenny lofted over a resulting penalty kick in the eighth minute, to the massed ranks of the faithful it seemed an early sign of things to come.

Not so, for the visitors struck back barely two minutes later with a penalty kick of their own and then continued to thwart their vaunted opponents, limiting them to just two more Halfpenny penalties in a very scrappy first half, not helped by a pedantic referee's constant whistle-blowing.

For the stubborn Italians it ended with a highly respectable 9-3 scoreline – with little sign at this stage, of them being buried under the predicted avalanche of Welsh points.

Things began to change 10 minutes after the change-over, when Jamie Roberts set out to show the hero of Twickenham – and his centre rival, Scott Williams – that "anything you can do, I can do better!" – with a 50-yard solo try, converted by Halfpenny, whose controversial yellow card was to reduce Wales to 14 men for 10 minutes (a fairly commonplace situation for Wales these days!)

No matter, for outside half Rhys Priestland, who looked slightly more comfortable than

was the case at Twickenham, was on hand to increase the margin to 19-3 with a fourth penalty.

With five minutes to go to the final whistle, replacement Ryan Jones plunged over near the posts, but to his obvious chagrin, the try was disallowed.

However, Wales finally stretched the margin of victory to 24-3 with a barn-storming try by man-of-the-match, right wing Alex Cuthbert, which Priestland failed to convert, and the referee signalled the end of a stop-start match that lacked the spark to set the expectant stadium alight.

It was, nevertheless, a job well done against game but out-gunned opponents who kept battling to the last, without ever really threatening the dream of a third Welsh Grand Slam party.

This will now climax on Saturday with a vengeance (in more ways than one!) when the French arrive in town, still reeling from their shock 24-22 defeat by a rejuvenated England side who had run in three tries in Paris.

Nevertheless, as every rugby follower knows full well, when it comes to Les Bleus, there is no guarantee that the mediocre team which performed in such an untypical French way against the English will be the same one that turns up against Wales – as the latter seek, not only to nail the Grand Slam, but erase the memory of that semi-final defeat in last year's Rugby World Cup in New Zealand.

The Welsh camp also know that despite



Picture by Huw Evans agency.

Alex Cuthbert's power takes him over the line. their four-match winning run, they are still not quite the finished article.

They have not so far managed to hit top gear in this Six Nations and there are still some frustrating blemishes to be ironed out – before any talk of victory over the notoriously unpredictable French – never mind another Grand Slam.

That said, this fast-developing young Welsh side have already shown a maturity way beyond their years and are fully capable of rising to the occasion, whichever starting line-up is named today.

First, though, they must take the next step up and heed former All Black Gatland's call for the "ruthless intent" that is part and parcel of the rugby mindset in his homeland.

Then the Grand Slam celebrations can truly begin in earnest, and who knows what that could herald for Welsh rugby in the future?

Red card proves no problem for Kenfig Hill as they earn victory

THIS Friday night game between Kenfig Hill and Lougher was rearranged after the original fixture was cancelled due to Lougher's Cup

commitments.

There was concern as to whether the game would be completed due to the foggy weather conditions, but thanks to the efforts of our resident lighting expert the Mules' floodlights were

up to the job the game ran to full time.

Kenfig Hill were handicapped within minutes of the start when hooker Daryl Harvey was red carded.

The remaining 14 players were simply magnificent for the Mules, completely out-playing the visitors in every aspect of the game. Captain and tight head prop Gareth Edwards demonstrated

his leadership skills and playing ability to the full with the seven man Kenfig Hill pack dominating the scrums as well as the rucks and mauls.

Lougher opened the scoring with a penalty by outside half Andrew Williams following the Harvey incident. The Mules then carried out a series of attacks which ended in centre Nicky Morgan sprinting

through the opposition defence to score under the posts, outside half Nicky Giles converting.

Williams then added another penalty for Lougher but Giles replied with two penalties for Kenfig Hill before Nicky Morgan scored his second try of the night with another dazzling turn of speed.

This gave a half time score of Kenfig Hill 18 Lougher 6.

Lougher opened the scoring in the second half against the run of play when left winger Simon Stonham crossed the line. This caused the Mules to go up a gear and only desperate defensive work by the visitors kept them out and when they eventually conceded a penalty, Giles was on hand to put it over.

Second row Ben Jones then powered over for the third Kenfig Hill try which Giles converted.

Kenfig Hill sat back and Lougher took advantage with a try by Sam George.

The Mules then went all out for a bonus point and were close to the line on several occasions before the final whistle.

Final score: Kenfig Hill 28, Lougher 16.

This was a tremendous team performance by Kenfig Hill with every player putting in a supreme effort after being forced to play with fourteen men for most of the game.

The referee singled out captain Gareth Edwards as the man of the match.

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[CUSHIONS]



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- Family-owned business trading in retail since 1897
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*Finance is subject to status, conditions and minimum spend applies. A 10% deposit is required. Certain departments including conservatories and clearance items are excluded from the deferred finance promotion. *Discount will be applied upon presentation of valid finishing touches card only. Subject to a minimum spend of £1000 on fitted bathrooms, fitted kitchens, furniture and conservatories. Discount varies according to spend. Offers end 28th March 2012.

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